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Issue no 98

Breakthrough as Open tees up high speed rail service

By Marijke Cox

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RAIL bosses have heralded the arrival of high speed rail services during the Open as the potential catalyst for long-awaited improvements to rail services in Deal and Sandwich.

Southeastern said running high speed trains to Sandwich over the course of the four-day tournament in July was an opportunity to make a case to the Government that services should be extended permanently.

Spokesman for the operator Jon Hay-Campbell said High Speed One (HS1) would highlight the benefits and costs of running trains to the two towns, which have previously been excluded from the high speed service.

A feasibility report is being drawn up by the company, driven by Pfizer's shock announcement in February that it would be leaving the area.

"We're looking at how to improve all the train services – not just high speed – for east Kent," said Mr Hay-Campbell.

"We should complete that in the next few weeks and the taskforce set up after Pfizer's decision will take it to central Government and see if funding can be secured."

"Provided suitable funding is found, these improvements will be possible."

He added: "The Open is a chance to highlight the benefits and factors involved with running the high speed to Sandwich and Deal.

"We're taking full advantage of it."

With HS1, journey times from London St Pancras to Sandwich would be slashed from 135 minutes to 80 minutes and for Deal, where it takes just over two hours, cut to just under 80 minutes. There is, however, an average 30 per cent hike in the fare.

Campaigners have been lobbying local MPs and Kent County Council to see improvements made to the east Kent service.

Rail user group Trains4Deal welcomed the arrival of HS1: "Previously we were told that stopping the HS1 at either of the two towns was impossible because of problems with the signalling system, more problems with lights on the platforms and still more problems with CCTV cameras needed by the train crews to operate the train doors.

"Now all these phantom problems have evaporated."

For timetable and fares during the Open go to www.southeasternrailway.co.uk.



All smiles at St George's as Open chiefs visit

Full story - see page 3

EMPLOYMENT

Support for Pfizer staff

JOBCENTRE Plus has moved onto the Pfizer site in a bid to help the 3,300 staff at risk of redundancy stay in employment.

A spokeswoman for the drugs giant, said the centre is on hand to provide advice to staff and contractors.

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ROYAL WEDDING

Get ready for a royal party

RESIDENTS are getting ready to party on Friday to celebrate the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. A number of street parties are taking place across Deal and Sandwich, while, countywide, the number has grown to nearly 200.

PAGE 2

ENVIRONMENT

Keep beaches clean appeal

A REPORT has revealed a shocking rise in the amount of sanitary waste found on our beaches. The new findings have now prompted the Marine Conservation Society to urge the public to 'bag it and bin it – don't flush it' in a bid to stop toilets being used as watery dustbins.

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News

FINANCE

Expenses don't add up at County Hall

By Marijke Cox

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A REVIEW into payroll at County Hall has uncovered multiple failings resulting in incorrect expenses payments to staff.

The findings were revealed in a report at a governance meeting at Dover District Council where internal auditors identified failings within the processes used at Kent County Council relating to benefits-in-kind payments, which are non-wage compensations on top of an employee's salary.

This includes expenses for items such as fuel, or equipment including laptops and company cars, which could have potential tax liabilities for staff.

KCC provides a payroll service to Dover council as part of a partnership with the four east Kent authorities which includes Shepway, Thanet and Canterbury.

Auditors at Dover carried out an internal review to ensure payments made to its staff through KCC payroll were accurate.

But a summary of findings reported that there were multiple failings within the processes at County Hall.

The report revealed this had "result-



ed in the incorrect payment of tax and National Insurance, incorrect payment of mileage and expenses, and the supply of equipment that could result in a taxable benefit charge to the employee".

It went on to state that "significant areas of improvement had been identified" with tighter internal control required surrounding the payment of mileage by KCC.

KCC's corporate director of human resources, Amanda Beer, said the errors identified – which she said related to the payment of expenses only – were corrected when they were first highlighted by the auditors and before the report was published.

She stated that no money was lost by the councils or any member of staff.

"All appropriate tax and National Insurance was paid to HM Revenue and

Customs (HMRC)," she said.

"KCC took immediate action to make minor system adjustments to ensure future payments would be calculated correctly."

She added: "Follow-up checks by auditors have confirmed that all the payroll related issues identified have been resolved. Errors were corrected in-year immediately after identification.

"All submissions made to HMRC were corrected and the end of year submissions were fully accurate."

In the review, a limited level of assurance was noted regarding benefits-in-kind payments at KCC.

In the report, a response was made by DDC's management stating that recommendations arising from the audit had been shared with both the HR partnership at the four councils and KCC.

ROYAL WEDDING

It's time to celebrate with last-minute surge in applications for street parties

HUNDREDS will be toasting the royal nuptials with friends and neighbours on Friday, following a rise in the number of approved street parties.

The amount of road closure applications at Kent County Council soared to 180 just before the closing date on Friday, April 15.

Early figures of just 54 suggested the county would not be pulling out all the stops to celebrate the marriage of Prince William to Kate Middleton on Friday. But applications came flying in just as the deadline loomed.

County Hall chiefs put the high demand down to the authority waiving its charges for parties in quiet, residential roads and by simplifying the application process.

Director of Kent Highways John Burr said: "This is a very special occasion and we wanted to make it easy for our residents to enjoy the royal couple's big day. We are pleased so many will be able to join in the celebrations."

Maidstone tops the list with 22 street parties; then Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells both with 17; Thanet with 16; Tonbridge and Malling with 14; Shepway and Canterbury with 13; Dover 12; Gravesham 11; Swale and Dartford 10; and Ashford six.



HER BIG DAY: Kate Middleton is to tie the knot with our future king Prince William this Friday, sharing the most important day of her life with well-wishers from around the world, especially those holding street parties all across the county



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Under threat staff get Pfizer JobCentre site

By **Marijke Cox**

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JOBCENTRE Plus has moved onto the Pfizer site in a bid to help the 3,300 staff at risk of redundancy stay in employment.

A spokeswoman for the drugs giant, which announced it would be leaving Sandwich next year, said the centre is on hand to provide employment services and advice.

In response to calls from South Thanet MP Laura Sandys that improved support was needed for the 900 contractors at the site, Pfizer said those not directly employed by the company had access to the JobCentre Plus facility, in addition to those Pfizer staff seeking alternative employment, help and support.

"We are keenly aware of and sensitive to the wider impacts following our proposal to exit the site," she said.

"There are around 900 people on the Sandwich site directly employed by companies other than Pfizer to provide particular support services.

"JobCentre Plus now has a presence on site to provide employment services and advice, and contractors have access to this."

Ms Sandys, who is part of the Pfizer task force set up to lessen the impact of Pfizer's departure on the local economy, said she was concerned for contractors and had urged the company to improve support.

Chief executive of Thanet and East Kent Chamber David Foley said the chamber had started business advice clinics and had seen a good response with a number of new start-up companies formed.



PFIZER SITE: JobCentre Plus arrival will offer support to staff and contractors concerned over the future

But he admitted finance was not readily available and he called on Government to address the matter.

"The start-ups have good ideas and a solid track record, but where do they go for funding?" he said.

"Banks are not as ready to give money as they used to be. Finance for start-ups need to be properly constituted."

Mr Foley also welcomed the Enterprise Zone proposals, but stressed it should not just be for the Pfizer site.

"It needs to stretch further than that," he said.

"Government must be aware that an Enterprise Zone must cover Thanet and deprived wards in Dover."

Enterprise Zones are areas selected by the government for additional support and services in order to boost selected regions or industry sectors. Two weeks ago 900 staff were handed their 'at risk' notices from Pfizer in what could be the first wave of redundancies.

Bosses at the drugs giant agreed to grant staff an additional three months pay on top of their standard redundancy settlement if their job was lost.

GOLF

Royal St George's wins praise from Open chiefs as excitement grows ahead of start

CHIEFS behind this summer's Open were unanimous in their praise of Royal St George's after visiting the course last week.

It is less than 12 weeks before the world's best players return to Sandwich for the first time in eight years.

Peter Dawson, chief executive of the The Royal & Ancient Club (R&A), which has responsibility for golf's oldest major championship, heaped praise on the club for its preparations ahead of the arrival of the very cream of the world's golfing stars.

He said: "It's a combination of the strength of the golf course and its ability to test today's top players - this is right up there with its ability to do that - the infrastructure, the access to the course and the willingness of the club

and its members to allow us to stage the event here. But it's the golf course that drives everything and this is one of the top golf courses in the world."

"Clearly we like to take the Open all around the country and the south of England is the biggest population centre in the country, so it's important we do have a venue here. It has been played in the past, of course, at Prince's and Deal [Royal Cinque Ports], but this is the one we use now and it's good that people from London and Kent have greater access than they would elsewhere in the country."

Royal St George's and the R&A have worked closely together over the past three-and-a-half years to get the course ready in time for the opening day on July 14.

Only minor changes to the course have been made, extending it by 105 yards on the 2003 edition.

The alterations are intended to provide a stern test to the sport's biggest stars, as it did in 2003 when surprise winner Ben Curtis was the only man to finish under par.

Thousands of golf fans are set to flock for the tournament - with visitors from mainland Europe set to swell numbers.

Among the big names expected to play will be Tiger Woods and Lee Westwood among many others. Tickets are already on sale.

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LOCAL ELECTIONS

Tory chief denies poorest parts of Kent are losing funding to the North

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

TORY peer Baroness Warsi has become the latest senior politician to visit the county in a bid to win over the public ahead of the local elections.

Just days after Labour leader Ed Miliband's visit to Gravesend and Deal on Monday, the Conservative Party chairman officially launched the Tory Party's campaign on a whistle-stop tour of Kent.

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi – the first Muslim woman to be appointed to the cabinet – told KoS that despite governing parties historically doing poorly in local elections, she was hopeful people could see the work being carried out by the Tories.

"I make it a rule not to predict election results, but it's clear we have a high base to defend at these elections," she said.

"What we've seen in Kent is Conservative-run councils doing a magnificent job of delivering more for less in a tough financial climate.

"Take Medway Council, where they're halving the annual payment to trade unions – saving local taxpayers almost £50,000. Or Gravesham, where they've plans to share a chief executive with Tonbridge and Malling Council, saving both councils thousands of pounds."

Every council in Kent is Tory run, and the party could suffer if anger at Coalition cuts proves widespread amongst voters.

Baroness Warsi defended claims that Kent continually misses out to the North on financial help from government due to the view the South East is more prosperous.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said last week – after learning the county would not receive a penny from the £450 million Regional Growth Fund – that Kent should be given the same chances as others to grow.

But Baroness Warsi said her party was focussed on getting growth going across the country.

"The South East part of Britain is one of the economic powerhouses of Europe, but there's no law saying this will be the case forever.

"That's why Conservatives are rolling up their



ON THE STUMP:
Baroness Warsi says Tory councils are providing more public services for less money

sleeves and making sure the south east builds on its success and goes from strength to strength."

Baroness Warsi also called on people in Kent to say no to the alternative vote.

"First, AV is unfair. With first-past-the-post, everybody gets one vote. But under AV, supporters of extreme parties like the BNP have more of their votes counted than those who back mainstream parties. Second, AV is weird and perverse – because the candidate who comes third can end up coming first. Third, AV is a discredited system used by only three countries in the world."

■ **For more on Ed Miliband's visit, see p10**

ARMED FORCES

Military Cross awarded to brave corporal who shielded injured comrades in Afghan ambush

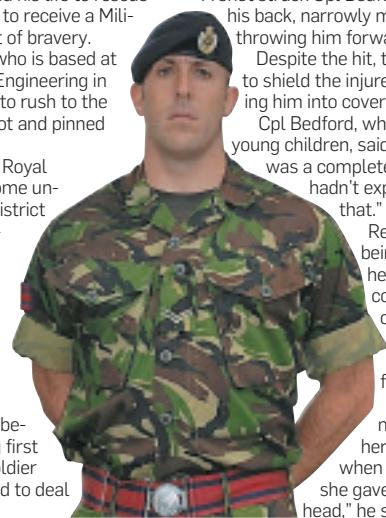
AN HEROIC soldier who risked his life to rescue two stricken comrades is set to receive a Military Cross for his selfless act of bravery.

Corporal James Bedford, who is based at the Royal School of Military Engineering in Chatham, braved enemy fire to rush to the aid of his soldiers who lay shot and pinned down in the open.

The 29-year-old's six-man Royal Engineer search team had come under fire in the Nahr-e-Saraj District of central Helmand, Afghanistan, on June 10, 2010.

While others took cover behind a wall, Cpl Bedford immediately ran forward, in full view of the enemy, and with no covering fire.

He deliberately placed his body between the casualties and the incoming enemy fire before administering life-saving first aid to the seriously injured soldier while directing others forward to deal with the other casualty.



A shot struck Cpl Bedford's equipment on his back, narrowly missing his head and throwing him forward.

Despite the hit, the corporal continued to shield the injured soldier before carrying him into cover.

Cpl Bedford, who is married with two young children, said: "Getting the award was a complete surprise, I really hadn't expected anything like that."

Recalling his equipment being hit by a bullet, he added: "I was more concerned about my colleague really."

His wife Rachel also had a surprise for him.

"She was happy for me, but I hadn't told her about the incident, when she heard that she gave me a clout round the head," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

► Rhinos killed for cure

MORE than 70 African rhinos have been slaughtered this year in South Africa just for their horns, and the Aspinall Foundation has called on the British government to act.

The foundation, which runs wild animal parks at Port Lympne and Howletts in east Kent, says crime syndicates have killed more than 800 African rhinos in the past three years, with rhino horns destined for the Asian medicinal markets driving the poaching epidemic.

► Getaway destination

MORE than half-a-million people are expected to travel through the county over the course of the bank holiday weekend as part of the big Easter getaway.

Ferry companies will see more than 400,000 people travel through the ports, while Eurotunnel is expecting to carry more than 150,000 passengers over the Easter holidays.

► Takes hole lotta fixing

KENT County Council's 'Find and Fix' pothole attack started this week with small and medium-sized local tarmac firms repairing roads across the county.

Each district will have a contractor tackling faults its crews come across as they work on the county's roads. Last year's campaign saw 31,000 potholes filled.

To report a fault ring Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways.

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METAL THEFT

Even war memorial not safe from the scrap metal thieves

Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CALLOUS scrap metal thieves have desecrated a memorial put up to remember a group of soldiers who died in World War Two, including of The Few.

As scrap values continue to creep higher in the global recession, the county is seeing the return of thieves stealing almost anything made from metal, no matter what emotional stress they leave in their wake.

Police say it was heartless to take the plaque from the memorial erected to remember 15 men who fell during the war.

Officers believe the only reason it was targeted was because it was made from brass. It was engraved with the names of the dead men, who were from River, near Dover.

The thieves removed it from the grounds of the parish church of St Peter and St Paul.

Rev Andy Bawtree said the thieves seem to have completely ignored what the plaque symbolised and how important it was to residents.

He said: "This is nothing like the usual lead from a church roof being taken. This was something that made the loss of those men something personal to the village.

"It symbolises the love and the sacrifice that others have given and this is the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives.

"When something like this happens, it leaves you with an empty gutted feeling. They really do not appear to care.

"The village put the money forward for a new one in the Millennium and it cost around £1,200, although the scrap value will be a fraction of that.

"One of the names on the plaque was Keith Gillman who was one of The Few. He was a poster boy for the RAF and lived in the village and went to school locally.

"I think he was only 19, so may have been the same age as those who took the plaque.

"This is not just something that has been pinched from the church – it goes to the heart of the community."



DESECRATED: Memorial in church grounds

CHURCH THEFT

Vicar's anger as ancient church chairs are stolen

TWO ancient ornate seats stolen from a picturesque church are needed back, because the vicar uses one regularly for her services.

Kent Police are investigating the theft of two ornate wooden bishop's chairs that were stolen from St Mary's & All Saints Church in Boxley, near Maidstone, on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 12.

Rev Susan Hollins said: "I am very angry. One of the chairs appeared in the church inventory in 1860 and it may well have been in the church a long time before then, too.

"And these were not simply two chairs left sitting in a corner and never used. They are jolly useful chairs. For example I sit on one of them when I take Sunday service, the Holy Communion, when I sit in the middle of the chancel steps.

"Whenever we have a bishop visiting, he sits on one of them. And when we have a wedding, of which we have many, the bride and groom sit on them.

"They do not just sit in the corner looking pretty, they are extensively used. That's why we are so cross someone has decided they would like them more than we would."

She added: "A pair of cafeteria



TAKEN: One of two ancient chairs

chairs just won't look the same."

There was a member of the congregation working in the churchyard at the time of the theft along with a man and his family taking a stroll through the grounds.

The visitor spotted two men loading the chairs into a silver hatchback at around 4.15pm after they were taken from the chancel and nave of the church.

Anyone with information can contact police in Maidstone on 01622 604210 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111, quoting crime reference CY/5634/11.

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WATER SUPPLIES

No summer hosepipe ban, says water firm

SOUTHERN Water says that despite the scorching April weather, stocks are high and it does not expect there to be a hosepipe ban this summer.

Bewl Water reservoir at Lamberhurst, is 96 per cent full, having been boosted by rainfall during the 'recharge season' of October to March.

Water strategy manager Meyrick Gough said: "From a resource perspective, we are in a better-than-average position, and do not envisage having to impose a hosepipe ban this summer."

Southern Water supplies water to two million customers in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Reservoir levels are updated weekly on www.southernwater.co.uk/waterresources.

EASTER EGGS

Call for crack down on Easter eggs wrapping

A KENT Lib Dem MEP has urged manufacturers to reduce the amount of packaging used to wrap Easter eggs.

Despite Government rules which require manufacturers to reduce packaging to a bare minimum, many Easter eggs still come wrapped in foil, plastic and cardboard.

This year Mars and Cadbury have reduced the size and weight of their packaging and Nestle is the only company whose packaging is 100 per cent recyclable.

MEP Sharon Bowles said: "For those that recycle, excess packaging amounts to more hassle. In short, manufacturers need to do better to reduce their packaging."

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Peta Godden shares her experience of Ramsgate Harbour

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ELECTORAL REFORM

Labour and Tories join forces to fight Lib Dem AV campaign

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

POLITICAL rivals have set aside traditional differences to fight against changes to the voting system.

It comes as campaigns for and against the alternative vote (AV) gather pace ahead of the referendum on May 5.

In a bid to convince the public to stick with the current first-past-the-post system (FPTP), Tory and Labour politicians in Folkestone have joined forces.

Tory MP for Folkestone and Hythe Damian Collins and Shepway Labour Party's Donald Worsley launched the No To AV campaign's latest billboard. "This is an issue that unites politicians from across the spectrum," said Mr Collins. "FPTP ensures the candidate who receives the most votes wins. It is simple, creates strong governments and is the most widely-used system in the world."

Under AV, candidates are ranked in order of preference, but if no-one wins more than 50 per cent of the vote, the contender with the lowest number of first-choice votes has their votes redistributed. This process is continued until someone has at least 50 per cent of votes.



POLL: Voters will be asked whether they want to change the way we select MPs

"Under AV, those who voted for the bottom candidate effectively have their votes counted twice," said Mr Collins.

Those against FPTP say it is out dated, not fair, and a large number of people's votes are wasted.

Arguments against AV are that it would allow minor extremist parties more chance of political power, and it is too complicated and expensive.

A Kent Lib Dems spokesman said:

"Your next MP would have to aim to get more than 50 per cent of the vote to be sure of winning. At present they can be handed power with just one vote in three. It's a long overdue upgrade to make a 19th century system fit for the politics of the 21st century."

Kent Green Party is not campaigning in the referendum because members were split between 'yes' supporters and those who want proportional representation.

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JOB LOSSES

Pfizer staff are 'generous and resilient' and will succeed despite redundancies

Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A FORMER director at Pfizer has admitted the drugs giant's decision to leave Kent is a set-back for the UK's science industry.

But Professor Stephen Wicks, who spent 25 years at the company, rising to become a vice-president of worldwide pharmaceutical sciences, said it would take more than the closure of Sandwich to blow the UK science base off its world-leading course.

He told this newspaper that employees at Pfizer were "talented and resilient" and he hoped Government would help preserve some jobs and part of the scientific infrastructure at the site.

Prof Wicks, who is professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Greenwich and director of research at the institution's school of science, admitted



SAD: Prof Stephen Wicks worked at Pfizer for 25 years, and says east Kent will be hit by its closure

he was surprised at the company's announcement in February that it would be shutting its research and development facility, leaving 3,300 jobs at risk, including contractors.

"Being aware of Pfizer's trad-

ing position, I had expected some loss of jobs, but not the wholesale closure of the site," he said. "Sandwich has some unique scientific and production assets that do not exist elsewhere in the company's



669

I had expected some job losses, but not the wholesale closure of the site. Pfizer has unique assets that do not exist anywhere else

PROF WICKS, FORMER DIRECTOR

global research and development network."

He added: "I was sad for my colleagues in Sandwich and for the local community that has supported the company for over 50 years.

believe they will succeed wherever they choose to settle."

Prof Wicks, who gave a lecture at Greenwich's Medway campus last week on the creation of medicines, said there was strong support from Government and universities like Greenwich to retain and operate the assets at Sandwich.

"The facilities are highly adapted for life science research and development and Pfizer has put a lot of thought and money into creating a built environment that promotes creativity through physical and electronic social networking.

"Success in the life sciences depends on bringing diverse disciplines together and then building strong and effective teams. Architecture matters and the Sandwich built environment is one of the best in the UK for promoting excellence in the life sciences."

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ASPARAGUS SEASON

Early harvest spear delight

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

KENTISH asparagus has sprouted a couple of weeks earlier this year – thanks to the warm weather the county has been enjoying.

Groombridge-based grower Stephen Barnes said the early start would prolong the season but could put the plants under more stress later in the year.

The delicious spring shoots, which are a great source of various vitamins and dietary fibre, thrive in the mild South East and are available now in farm shops and supermarkets.

Mr Barnes, of Birchden Farm, said: "It's a very short season so people should come and get it fresh and direct from the growers because the fresher it is the better it tastes."

He said the season usually lasts eight weeks, which from May to June, but because of the early start it could stretch for another week.

He added: "People should not be afraid to over-indulge while it's available."

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It is also known to help fight cancer, protect against heart disease and boost the immune system. It is also said to even boost your sex drive.

The vegetable was claimed to 'stir up lust in man and woman' by herbalist Nicholas Culpeper in the 1600s and the debate surrounding its aphrodisiac qualities continues to this day.

Explaining the early harvest, Mr Barnes said: "Asparagus responds well to temperature particularly when the soil reaches 15C – it starts to



HOT TIPS: Asparagus season has arrived early

grow very quickly. Because of the good weather and hot sun over the last few weeks the soil temperature rose and we started early. It's good because the season lasts longer, but it could put the plants under more stress later in the year."

Experts warn not to over-cook asparagus, which can be steamed in three to four minutes. It is traditionally eaten with your fingers.

Growers say the big freeze before Christmas and the warm, dry spring are behind the early appearance of the vegetable.

HERITAGE

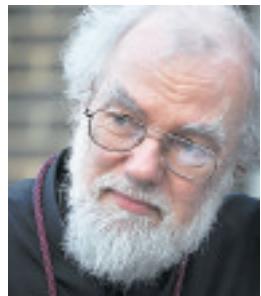
Archbishop lends voice to tour

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has contributed to a new audio tour for St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, one of the oldest and most important monastic sites in England.

On the free audio tour, Dr Rowan Williams speaks about the importance of St Augustine – the Benedictine monk who was sent by the Pope to

England to convert people to Christianity. St Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the year AD 598 and is considered by some to be the founder of the Church of England.

Dr Williams said: "I have visited St Augustine's Abbey many times for its peace and tranquillity."



RECORDED: Dr Rowan Williams

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POLISHSTONE CALLANT

POLITICS

We will end the no-go zones for Labour in Kent, claims party leader Ed Miliband

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

LABOUR leader Ed Miliband has vowed to change the political landscape in Kent, saying there should be no all-blue areas.

On a visit to the county on Monday, he said he was determined to wipe out "no-go" zones, where every council in Kent is Tory-run and all the MPs are Conservative.

He admitted Labour had a mountain to climb to win back support in the county. "I think it is important there are no 'no-go' zones," he said.

"I want us to win back trust and the issues we are raising such as the squeeze on people's living standards are very real."

During his visit Mr Miliband spoke to staff at Deal's Citizens Advice Bureau about the scale of government cuts to services.

But he admitted that had his party won last year's general election there would still have



picture: PAUL JERREAT

CUTS: Ed Miliband meets Deal Citizens Advice Bureau district manager Jan Stewart during his visit

been under cuts under Labour.

Asked whether Labour would have been more successful in last year's election had the alternative vote system been in place, Mr Miliband – who just hours before had united in sup-

port of AV alongside Lib Dem business secretary Vince Cable – said: "I can't guess what would have happened."

"In the referendum, voters need to look past Nick Clegg and David Cameron. This is a

chance to make a change and I hope people will take advantage of this opportunity."

Focusing on May 5 district elections, Mr Miliband would not predict whether he thought Labour would be successful.

6699

In the referendum voters must look past Clegg and Cameron. This is a chance to make a change and I hope people will take advantage of it

ED MILIBAND, ON THE AV VOTE

"I'm not in the business of forecasting," he said.

"I'm in the business of going out and winning the argument. If people think this country is going in the wrong direction and the cuts are a problem in

areas like Kent, I hope they will vote for Labour."

Mr Miliband said he was disappointed about the looming departure of Pfizer and regretted the loss of regional development agencies such as Seeda.

"What we have to learn from the financial crisis is the need to have a broad industrial basis," he said. "There needs to be a focus on every area of manufacturing in Britain."

He added an east Kent Enterprise Zone in may not go far enough to help the local economy recover from the drugs giant's departure.

A taskforce set up to lessen the impact on east Kent is bidding for the area to become a Government's Enterprise Zones.

Businesses moving to the area would receive tax breaks and lenient planning rules. Mr Miliband said: "I'm all for anything that will help but I'm sceptical the scale of intervention needed will be met by enterprise zones."

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SEX ABUSE CLAIM

Priest accused of child sex abuse found dead at home

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

A CATHOLIC priest facing allegations of sexual assault against a child has been found dead at his home.

Police said they were not treating the death of Monsignor Michael Smith, who was parish priest of Corpus Christi Church in Tonbridge, as suspicious, and that a post mortem would be held to establish cause of death.

His temporary withdrawal from his position in December sparked shockwaves in the community, with police launching a probe into the allegations.

Monsignor Smith, then 63, was arrested on suspicion of assault on December 7, 2010.

No charges had been brought and a police spokeswoman said he had been given bail while enquiries were carried out.

Officers discovered his body when they were called to an address in Poynder Drive, Sn-

odland at 8.50pm last Sunday.

A member of the church said they were "devastated" at the news and added: "We cannot believe it. It was distressing enough to hear of the allegations made against him, but to hear this news is appalling."

Father Philip Glandfield, private secretary to the Archbishop of Southwark, from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark, which covers Kent, said: "It was with great sadness that we heard the unexpected death of Monsignor Smith, parish priest of Corpus Christi parish, Tonbridge.

"Our hearts go out to his mother and family, and the parishioners of Corpus Christi parish whom Mgr Smith served for the past 19 years.

"We are waiting for the post-mortem examination to determine the cause of his death and funeral arrangements will be published in due course.

"We ask for prayers for the

repose of his soul, and for his family and the parishioners of Corpus Christi parish."

The weekend after his arrest last year, the Archbishop of Southwark, Peter Smith, and Bishop John Hine, took mass at the Lyons Crescent church.

The Archbishop told the congregation it was "with great sadness" that he had to tell them "an allegation has been made against Monsignor Smith concerning a young person".

Corpus Christi Church, which currently has Tom McElhone as the parish administrator, said that it could not comment on Monsignor Smith's death or the allegations.

The police spokeswoman said: "Police were called to an address in Poynder Drive, Snodland at 8.53pm on Sunday, April 17, where the body of a deceased man was found. The matter is not being treated as suspicious and the coroner's office has been informed."

DOG TRIALS

PC Sam's top dog at UK trials

KENT Police have Britain's top female dog handler after the officer scooped the top prize at a major national event.

PC Samantha Appleby took top honours at the National Police Dog Trials with four-year-old German shepherd Victor (pictured), after

impressing the judges with her cool approach and commanding ability of her dog.

She said: "I was thrilled to represent Kent Police and it's an honour to be the UK's top female dog handler."

Overall Kent's dog handlers came eighth out of 22 entrants.



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ART

Images focused on a year in our lives

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THIS time next year, fans of photography will be able to see how three areas of Kent have changed on a daily basis over 12 months.

Some 178 keen snappers on the Isle of Sheppey, Canterbury, and Faversham, have so far signed up to take part. And as we move into April the first quarter results are now in.

It's called The Year in the Life project, and judging panels select one picture per day out of all the daily submissions.

These will then make it into various events in 2012, including exhibitions and books.

Deciding which images made the cut meant the trio of panels, one for each area, looked at things like creativity, originality, cultural/historical interest, composition, story, subject, interpretation of the area and ability to catch the viewers' attention.

Organisers said the judges are from various backgrounds to ensure the results reflect a representative portrait of each area.

In Canterbury for instance, one of the judges, artist David Hayward, said: "Judging is different from most other selection procedures I've been involved with. The competition is open to professionals and amateurs, young and old.

"Their experience varies enormously and the cameras they use can range from expensive SLRs to small digitals and even mobile phones."

Along with fellow judges, Canterbury city centre co-ordinator Philippe Esclasse and photographer Richard Walton, he has ploughed through hundreds of shots to strike the right balance.

It is the same with the other two areas. Some 52 photographers are working in Faversham, and will be judged by Anne Maclaren, the director at Creek Creative, photographer Peter Smith, town mayor Anita Walker and Laurence Young, from Faversham Enterprise Partnership.

Mr Young said: "The emphasis on people working and going about their daily lives against a backcloth of local scenes gives a fresh angle".

On Sheppey, 36 photographers are at work and their efforts will be judged by a panel including head of community cohesion at the Isle of Sheppey Academy Paul Murray, Sioux Peto of Swale Arts Forum, resident Stan Rayfield, and Samantha Williams, assistant headteacher and director of learning at the academy.

Ms Williams said: "The pictures submitted represented scenes from the island, providing us with a rich source of imagery that had captured the true essence and character of the isle."

■ **For more about the project see www.kentcreativearts.co.uk/a-year-in-the-life.**

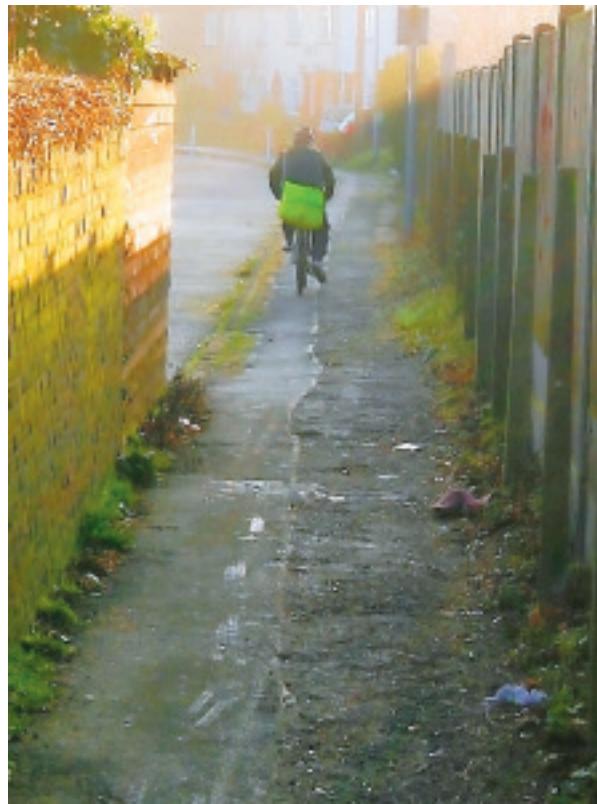
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LIFE AS ART: Clockwise from top left:
PAPERBOY: On Monday, March 14, taken by Tony Cartwright
GONE TO GET MARRIED: Taken on Monday, January 31, of the A-la-Mode shop window on Gatefield Lane, by Neil Brown
SMILE: Tuesday, March 22, at the Harty Ferry Inn, by Jo Eden
DANDELIONS: On Saturday, April 9, at Front Brents, by Richard Drew
STEERING FROM BEHIND: Taken on Monday, March 21, of the Cambria launch at Standard Quay, by Carol Mitchell



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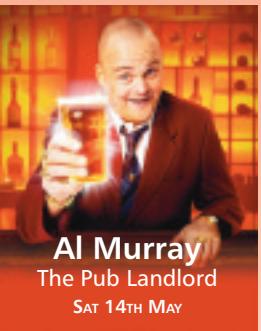


Jools Holland

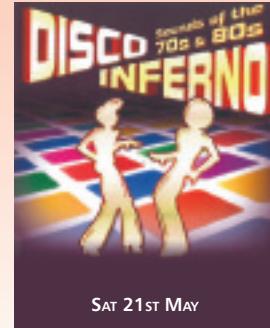
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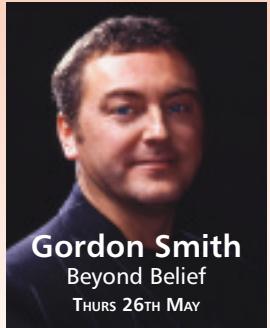
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TRIBUTE

Grieving mother: I feel like I have lost a little bit of me

By Mathew Beech

mathew.beech@archant.co.uk

THE mother of a teenage boy killed in a tragic canoe accident on Sunday, has paid a moving tribute to him.

Cameron Sandell, 14, from Hunston, near Maidstone, died while out on the River Medway.

The experienced canoeist capsized at the weir at Teston Lock. Unable to right himself, onlookers started a desperate attempt to try and save him, but the strength of the water prevented a safe rescue.

His parents Sue, 45, and Peter Sandell, 47, and their daughter Hannah have been devastated by his loss.

His mother said: "It's impossible to put into words how much he will be missed. I feel like I have lost a little bit of me.

"The house is empty without him, he was larger than life and when Cameron was round you would feel his presence. He was such a big part of our lives."

Mr Sandell added: "He was my shadow. We used to go hunting and salmon fishing together, which was one of Cameron's passions and we'd have the time to set the world to rights.

"He had this great ability to make other people laugh, with the most fantastic sense of humour."

Cameron's older sister Hannah said: "I thought the world of him. We got on really well and were great friends, enjoying each other's company.

"Last week we were able to spend some quality time together and I will treasure those memories."

While paddling on the river, Cameron and a friend approached the Teston Lock sluice gate and weir, when the 14-year-old capsized. They entered the fast moving water at about 11.20am.

Bystanders pulled him free of his canoe, but were unable to pull him to safety due to

the strong flow of the water.

Mrs Sandell said: "I would like to thank everyone who tried to help Cameron and we appreciate that every effort was made to try and save him."

Cameron was a competent and experienced canoeist, having participated in the sport for four years, gaining a national qualification.

The teenager was also a keen member of the Scouts and planned to study hard in the hope that he would go to Sandhurst to train to be an officer. He had originally planned to enlist in the Royal Air Force, but it was not recruiting, so he turned his sights on the Army.

Grant Scamell who owns the Kent Canoes Shop that hired the boats to the teenagers was devastated at the news.

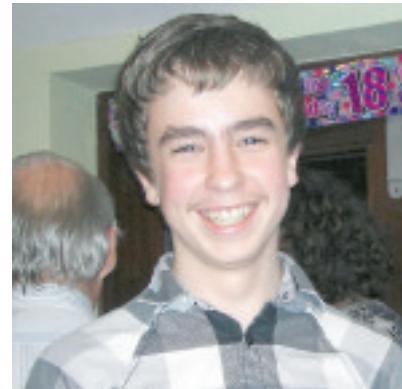
He said: "What happened was a tragic accident.

"It is a small community here we are all very upset about it.

"I know the whole of the river and it is used regularly,

but a young man tragically got caught out."

The date of the funeral is yet to be set, but it is expected to take place at Yalding Church, which is affiliated with the local Scouts.



LARGER THAN LIFE:
Experienced canoeist Cameron Sandell drowned after he capsized while out on the River Medway

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CELEBRITY

Hospice stepped in when bubble burst

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

THE daughter of the notorious lady's man and bon viveur Sir Dai Llewellyn has spoken poignantly about his final days spent in a Kent hospice with his family.

Arabella Llewellyn told how the Champagne bubble burst on her father's party lifestyle after he was diagnosed with cancer, and lovingly described the man behind the headlines.

Sir Dai died on January 13, 2009, after a short and painful struggle with the illness.

A colourful Welsh baronet and son of the gold-medal-winning Olympic showjumper Sir Harry Llewellyn, he had led the life of an international lothario in the 1960s and 70s and his links with various society girls and models were played out in the gossip columns of the day.

Ms Llewellyn, 27, has raised more than £11,000 for Hospice in the Weald since her father's death, climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, running the London Marathon, and the Tunbridge Wells half marathon.

She said: "He was only 62, although a friend remarked soon after he died, that 'for all the hours he was awake, partying the night away, he was really 95'. As a little girl I had been in awe of this man who spoke five languages, told wondrous stories, made friends everywhere, and who kept wine bottles and salami in his briefcase.

"As I grew up, we became the best of friends. He taught me to love travel and wine, why there was only one place to buy moustache wax, how to swear almost anywhere in the world, never to wear jeans at night, and to wear high-heels at every opportunity.

"When he was diagnosed with cancer, this world of bubbles and laughter became one of needles, pills and frowns."

He wrote an article in the Daily Mail in 2008, describing the day he collapsed in agony while visiting friends in Kent, which led to him discovering he was suffering from anaemia, diabetes, prostate cancer and cirrhosis of the liver.

Sir Dai said he knew immediately the root cause of his vari-

ous conditions was alcohol

He wrote about his privileged lifestyle, then said: "There's no difference between an alcohol diseased body in a hospital bed, whether it belongs to an old Etonian baronet like myself or a guy sleeping rough on the street. The

6699

We stole him away to the pub and he flirted with the nurses, but they didn't mind

ARABELLA LLEWELLYN

damage is the same."

Ms Llewellyn, who lived in Edenbridge with her family before moving to London, spoke about finding much-needed support from Hospice in the

Weald, at its site in Pembury.

"None of us were prepared for the speed with which his condition deteriorated," she said. "At the lowest point, an incredible hospice stepped in and helped him.

"An oasis in a sea of agony and injections, the Hospice in the Weald provided Dad with the most wonderful care.

"As a family it was so confusing and we could ask the hospice and they gave us guidance, we felt we could ask anything.

"We could come in whenever we wanted and at times we stole him away to the pub and he flirted with the nurses, but they didn't mind.

"We were so lucky to have been able to say goodbye to Dad as his children rather than his carers, and to know he died peacefully and with dignity."

Ms Llewellyn has spent the two years since her father's death supporting the hospice through fundraising.

She added: "I will never be able to truly thank the Hospice in the Weald, but by raising money for them, we can help others to benefit too."



FAMILY: Sir Dai Llewellyn before his illness, with daughter Arabella

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ENVIRONMENT

If you use the toilet as a dustbin, the rubbish ends up on our beaches

By **Marijke Cox**

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A NEW marine report has revealed a shocking rise in the amount of sanitary waste found on beaches.

It has prompted the Marine Conservation Society (MCS), which carried out the Beachwatch study, to urge the public to support the organisation's 'bag it and bin it – don't flush it' campaign and to stop using toilets as a watery dustbin.

New figures for last year showed that in the South East region a total of 90,906 items of litter, an average of 1,564 per beach, including bathroom waste, plastic and fishing rubbish, were collected from 101 beaches – an eight per cent rise since 2009.

Nineteen of Kent's beaches were included in the MCS study, although the organisation said it would not name and shame any specific sites.

Items found included cotton buds, condoms, sanitary towels and tampon applicators.

MCS Beachwatch officer Lauren Davis said the figures revealed a shocking picture of what people do in the privacy of their own bathroom.

"Increasingly people seem to be putting things down their loos that belong in the bin," she said.

"Cotton buds, condoms, tampons, tampon applicators and sanitary towels are being flushed away with an 'out of sight, out of mind' perception.



tion. But sewerage networks are not specifically designed to remove these sort of items and unfortunately more and more are ending up in our rivers and then on our beaches."

SeaFrance Dover-Calais ferries is lead sponsor on the Beachwatch project, which is the UK's largest beach litter survey. Managing director of the Channel operator Robin Wilkins said the figures were truly startling.

"We are aware of the type of bathroom litter that ends up on our seashores from our own

beach cleans at Kingsdown. "It doesn't cost anything to throw these items into a bin rather than flushing them down a toilet."

Since 2008, SeaFrance customers have raised more than half a million pounds to ensure the continued success of the survey. Staff also clean Kingsdown Beach near the company's Dover headquarters four times a year. To get involved go to www.seafrancecleanseas.com.

■ **To see more news and sport headlines from your area go to yourdover.co.uk.**

CONSERVATION

Coastline protection

CLIFFS and underwater chalk areas along the coast of Dover could become protected under plans to create preservation areas in British seas.

The area was put forward to the Balanced Seas Marine Conservation Zone project, which recommends sites for protection to Government. The chalk is a surface for plants and animals to attach to, but is also soft enough for burrowing animals.

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WORLD WAR ONE

Pupil spots historic football on WWI field trip



HERO: Captain William Nevill

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A VISIT to the fields of blood that were once the scene of some of the fiercest fighting of World War One has also become the location of a chance in a million find for a Kent teenager – one of four special footballs British troops took to the frontline.

George Majin, 13, spotted the ball on top of a fridge in a French café near the fields that saw thousands of men die in the Battle of the Somme.

It looked almost discarded, but the café owner was determined not to let his piece of history come back home to Kent. Spotting it was the culmination of a story packed with chance and amazing coincidence.

George, from Chart Sutton, said he was working on a school history project which required a visit to the World War One battlefields.

Dad Graham said: "George had heard the story of Captain William 'Billie' Nevill, who bought four footballs – one for each of his platoons – and promised to give a prize to the soldier who could get a ball into the German trenches first."

Nevill's 'Football Attack' was celebrated by the newspapers back home as an example of British dash and spirit. But the Germans dismissed it as a prime example of British insanity.

Graham said: "George wanted to visit Nevill's grave in France, so he bought a small football, wrote on it and placed it on the grave."

The student at Oakwood Park Grammar School in Maidstone said: "I think Nevill was very brave and I was glad to do this as a way of remembering him."

However, this moving personal ceremony was just the start of a strange adventure of discovery.

The pair stopped for steak and chips at Le Tommy's – a nearby café on the main Albert-Bapaume road in the middle of the village of Pozières. But as they were about to leave, they noticed an old leather football behind the bar.

Cafe owner Dominique Zanardi told them several years ago he'd found a rub-

CHANCE FINDING:

George Majin with cafe owner Dominique Zanardi and the Football Attack ball which was on top of the fridge



bish tip in a farmer's field. In this hole in the ground were 10 British backpacks and some ammunition pouches from World War One which he salvaged.

Graham said on one of the backpacks was written '18 Manchesters' which clearly referred to the 18th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment positioned immediately to the right of Nevill's unit on July 1, 1916.

Football fan George, who plays for Staplehurst, said: "In the backpack, Dominique found an old football. On the football was written Gamages, the name of a London shop which sold sports equipment.

"The ball appears to be identical to the

two surviving balls. When I found out the restaurant, which we'd randomly visited, had a ball from the attack, I was lost for words.

"To hold the ball was unbelievable. My dad was talking in French to the man behind the bar, who pointed to this old worn out football on top of a fridge.

"My dad went to get his camera and I asked him what was going on. To my amazement he told me this football was probably one of Nevill's lost footballs from July 1, 1916.

"To hold a piece of history in my hands – especially as I had visited Nevill's grave only one hour before, was really exciting."

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MEMORIAL: George Majin with the ball he placed at Captain Nevill's grave

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streets of Gravesend to celebrate Vaisakhi.

The Sikhs welcomed follows of other religions to join in the fun, and enjoy some of the many Indian dishes that were prepared.

The head of the Gravesend's Sikh temple, called a gurdwara, said they were joined by many from other faiths and communities at the procession.

This year's celebrations were centred around the completion of their new £13 million gurdwara which has been under construction since 2002.

Saturday's parade was followed on Sunday with the main Vaisakhi service in the gurdwara, attended by around 2,000 people during the morning and a stream of people throughout the day.

The colourful procession itself was organised by the Gurdwara Management Committee, with thousands of people walking and 25 floats prepared by religious, arts and cultural groups. Such was the attraction, it trailed more than half a mile long as it wound its way through the town centre. During the whole weekend a constant stream of visitors toured the new Gurdwara to view the magnificent building which is the largest of its type in Europe.

President of the gurdwara, Jaspal Singh Dhesi, said: "This is a time of great celebration for Sikhs all over the world, and we in Gravesend have



VIBRANT: This year's Vaisakhi centred around the newly-completed gurdwara

something very special to celebrate.

"I am very proud to have had the privilege and honour of playing a small part in the magnificent achievement of the gurdwara from which the Nagar Kirtan (procession) started. I would like to thank the people of this wonderful town for helping to make this happen.

"We are grateful to Kent Police and Gravesham Borough Council for their support, and to the many organisations that help to make it such a joyous occa-

sion for all communities."

The Chief Constable of Kent, Ian Learmouth, and Gravesham Mayor Bill Lambert congratulated the Sikh community at the start of the procession for the Vaisakhi celebrations. They said Mr Learmouth was particularly grateful for the contributions made by Sikhs to the wider community and congratulated them on the construction of the new gurdwara, which he was visiting for the first time.



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DEVELOPMENT

Trust makes a buzz over threat to rare bee habitat



Picture: M.J.CLARK



Picture: MIKEL TAPIA ARRIBADA



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Picture: BUGLIFE

STUNG:
From left, the shrill carder-bee, white eye-stripe hoverfly and brown banded carder-bee all live on the area of land to be developed

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS IF the bees of the world haven't got it hard enough already, a power company wants to develop one of the bug's favourite spots in Kent, it is claimed.

The Isle of Grain is a bee haven, but the National Grid wants to destroy it with warehouses, says a group leading the fight against the plans.

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust said it is determined to win the day for the humble bee by protecting the 100 hectare wildlife haven on the Isle of Grain.

It said the site is home to a variety of beautiful, rare and endangered insects, including a large population of threatened bumblebee species.

Buglife said the isle supports an exceptional area of 'open mosaic habitat' providing lots of pollen and nectar-rich flowers, bare ground ideal for burrowing and basking insects, and pools for aquatic beetles and bugs.

It is home to an array of special plants, reptiles, bumblebees, hoverflies and beetles, including the white eye-stripe hoverfly which until recently

was believed to be extinct, and mellet's downy-back beetle which is so rare it has only been seen five times in the UK in the last 20 years.

Among the rare bees are the brown banded carder-bee and shrill carder-bee.

Buglife chief executive Matt Shardlow said: "The isle is likely to be one of the most important sites in Britain for rare and endangered invertebrates.

"This is a bug paradise and National Grid's current plans to develop it into a huge business park and lorry depot would destroy it."

Buglife has bitterly criticised National Grid, which it claims has already sprayed large areas of the site with pesticides to eliminate brown-tail moths, but it also resulted in the loss of flowering plants and bushes used by pollinating insects such as bumblebees.

In the first round of legal proceedings at the High Court of Justice, Judge Anthony Thornton QC concluded National Grid must stop spraying the site with pesticides and allow the ecology to recover, before undertaking further surveys to find out how important the wildlife is. However, the group said the judge refused to allow a judicial review of the planning permission.

Matt Shardlow said: "We are not convinced that the proposal to just do more ecological assessments will save the animals. Buglife is appealing this decision; that is the right thing to do for the bumblebees and to ensure future generations of people will benefit from the bees' diligent work pollinating flowers and crops."

A National Grid spokesman said: "We are pleased with the decision to refuse Buglife's application to bring judicial review proceedings against Medway Council for allowing the planning application for commercial development at the Isle of Grain."

"National Grid is committed to protecting the site's ecology. There are some areas which will not be developed to protect existing populations of invertebrates, water voles, reptiles and plants."

"We are disappointed Buglife have made an application for leave to appeal and we await the decision on whether this will be granted."

And Medway Council said: "Buglife lost the challenge but the developer will have to submit further studies before the site can be developed."

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CHARITY SHOW

Boxing night packs a punch for charities

A BOXING evening organised by the Rotary Club of Thanet and Ramsgate Amateur Boxing Club has raised more than £27,000 for good causes.

More than 500 people attended the event at the Winter Gardens, Margate, which has been running for the last six years.

The local charities that will benefit from the proceedings include Ramsgate Amateur Boxing Club, EKUBS, Cancer Care, RNLI Margate and Ramsgate, St Lawrence Scouts, Oasis, and Thanet Community First Response ambulance service.

DRUGS

Drug addict's mum has sentence upheld

A MOTHER who was jailed for tying up her daughter to stop her buying drugs has lost her appeal against her 12-month sentence.

Julia Saker, 50, from Dover, was jailed in January after pleading guilty to false imprisonment.

She had taped her daughter Tabitha's legs together in an attempt to stop her leaving the house to try and buy heroin.

Mrs Saker was released from prison with a tag. She was appealing for a non-custodial sentence, but judges dismissed her appeal.

RAIL PROTEST

Rail protestors picnic in fight for a fare deal

By Ian Read

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than 100 demonstrators angry at soaring rail fares staged a peaceful protest at Canterbury West station.

Determined to highlight the rising cost of train travel in the UK, the protestors wore costumes from The Railway Children film – and then held a picnic when they reached the cathedral city.

Having boarded a train at London Bridge last Sunday the Unfair Fare Dodge brigade paid £7 on their Oyster cards and boarded a service to Kent.

The protestors from Climate Rush, which campaigns on environmental issues, claimed that's how much a similar journey in France or Germany costs.

To meet UK fares, they would have needed to have each paid out another £20.

It formed part of a protest which urged the Government, if it wanted to affect climate change, to stop sanctioning



PLUCKY PROTEST:
Katy Carr entertains fellow Unfair Fare Dodge travellers with her ukulele during their journey from London to Canterbury

massive hikes in fares, forcing people off the rail network and into their cars.

But faced with so many fare dodgers, staff and transport police didn't take any action.

Campaign spokesman Andrew Tarbert said: "We were expecting a confrontation but the staff couldn't have been nicer. I think they secretly agreed with us. At Canterbury, the station master was very nice and let us have our picnic."

Singer Katy Carr, who brought her ukulele to enter-

tain the passengers, said: "We want to see fair fares. We can't see why people have to pay a massive chunk out of their salaries simply to go to work."

"When we got to Canterbury West we had a picnic and a sing song and then got back on the train."

A spokesman for South-eastern trains said: "The demonstrators were very well behaved. It was a genteel protest."

"They made their point which was one for the politicians to deal with."

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ROYAL WEDDING

One of UK's biggest royal wedding street parties will be a Commonwealth affair

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HUNDREDS of revellers will take to the streets in north Kent to celebrate the Royal wedding in what is predicted to be one of the country's biggest street parties.

More than 500 people are due to attend the mass turnout on Thursday outside Gravesend Civic Centre to toast Prince William and Kate Middleton on the eve of their wedding on Friday, April 29.

Organised by the Kent Equality Cohesion Council and the borough council, with support from County Hall, the event is expected to be the biggest outdoor street party in Kent and one of the largest outside London.

Director of the equality council Gurvinder Sandhu, who is co-ordinating the party, has been working on the project for several months.

"Events like the Royal Wedding are historic events and I wanted to mark it

with a spectacular party which would be remembered in years to come by all those who are there," he said.

"This is an excellent way for all the diverse communities of Gravesend to come together and mark this event."

Around 500 young people from 10 local schools as well as guests are due to attend, in addition to the district's residents who are invited to join in the celebrations.

Before the street party begins, a parade will take place starting at 10am outside the Towncentric Offices in St George's Square, leading up the High Street into New Road, through St George's shopping centre and back onto New Road where the national anthem will be played.

The parade will then travel through Windmill Street and finish outside the civic centre where the celebrations will begin. A free lunchtime concert is being held from 12.30-2pm and residents are invited to bring their own refreshments

and enjoy the entertainment.

A spokesman at Gravesend council called on people from all the countries of the Commonwealth living in the area to join in the parade.

"As Commonwealth Nation representatives are always invited to Royal weddings we want to engage the community who come from all the Commonwealth Nations to take part in the parade, either wearing national costumes or carrying a national flag to make the day as colourful as possible."

Festivities will be taking place across Kent with more than 180 street parties approved by County Hall.

Fort Amherst in Chatham has been given permission by Buckingham Palace to fire a 21 gun salute on April 29.

The Prince William saluting battery which hasn't been used for over 100 years has been restored specifically for the event.

To join the Gravesend parade email info@kentccc.org.uk.



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Photograph by Ken Grant, Camera Press London



Photograph by Ken Grant, Camera Press London

EDUCATION

Teachers threatening strike action as Coalition plans changes to pension scheme

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

TEACHERS may go on strike in Kent over controversial changes to their pension schemes.

Government ministers want teachers to pay 50 per cent more into their savings than they do at present, despite a change in how their pensions are calculated which could lead to a loss in value of more than £60,000 over the course of their careers.

The head of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) union, Mary Bousted, has warned that staff could stage a one-day strike before the summer in protest at the planned reforms.

Her views were echoed by the Kent secretary of the National Union of Teachers, John Walder, who fears the proposals could put young people off entering the profession.

"They're being asked to pay more in, work for longer and get paid less at the end," he said. "They're being hit from all sides when the chances of them ac-

tually reaching retirement age are decreasing all the time as the pressures of the job increase.

"There's clearly a lot of self-interest in this but there's a considerable amount of worry on the effect these changes could have on the profession."

The NUT is in discussions with fellow unions the ATL and NASUWT to discuss a joint approach to opposing the reforms, which would result in a £2.8 billion saving for the Government.

Mr Walder was one of an estimated 500,000 people who attended the anti-cuts march in London last month.

He said: "It was gobsmacking to see the numbers that turned out, and there were teachers protesting against the pension changes everywhere.

"We are in the middle of negotiations with the Government and the march was all part and parcel of that, but with this particular Government I'm not holding out much hope of them doing anything other than carrying on regardless.

"I can't see any other alternative but to go on strike."

The ATL debated the pension changes at its annual conference last week, and some 15,000 members signed a petition that was handed to Chancellor George Osborne last Monday.

Dr Bousted said the union was likely to hold a ballot next month for industrial action to take place before the school summer holidays.

She added: "My view is that it almost certainly would involve a one-day strike, and that members would be asked to take discontinuous action."

"We do this most reluctantly. We are faced with a Government that has taken heavy-handed action on pensions, that's already reduced their value by 25 per cent, and is refusing to hold meaningful discussions with us."

Last month lecturers at the University of Kent went on strike over planned changes to their pension scheme.

The proposals included an end to final-salary pensions for new members, the introduction of a pension age of 65, and the linking of pension increases to the lower consumer prices index of inflation.

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CRIME

Man jailed for laser attack on Kent Police helicopter pilot

A MAN who blinded a police helicopter pilot with a laser pen, and could have caused him to crash into Maidstone town centre, has been locked up.

During the evening of June 24 last year the Kent Police helicopter was carrying out a search in Maidstone town centre when someone began shining a laser pen into the direction of the aircraft.

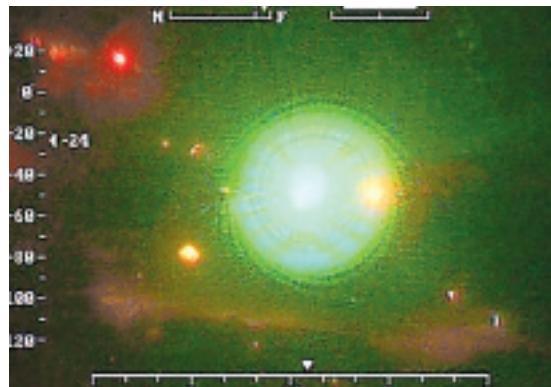
The laser lit up the flight deck, dazzling the pilot and forcing him to remove a hand from the flight controls in order to shield his eyes.

As he tried to manoeuvre the craft away from the light he was deliberately tracked.

The aircrew managed to guide police patrols to the direction of the light, where Jerome Tomlinson was arrested.

Tomlinson, 21, of Kewlands, Maidstone, was charged with recklessly or negligently acting in a manner likely to endanger an aircraft, contrary to the Civil Aviation Act 1982.

During the trial at Maidstone Crown Court last week, His Honour Judge Macdonald QC, passing sentence, said Tomlinson came from a good home with a good mother and had shown genuine



BLINDING LIGHT: A still from in-craft footage recorded during the incident

remorse but that a suspended sentence wouldn't provide a strong enough deterrent to others.

Tomlinson will spend four months of his eight-month sentence in prison.

Supt Nicola Faulconbridge of Kent Police Contact and Control Centre said: "This was a very dangerous thing to do and the consequences could have been far more serious, but for the skills of the pilot.

"The crew were going about their daily job – protecting the public – when the light from the laser blinded the pilot.

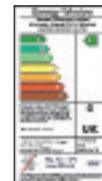
"It is testament to his flying skills that he maintained control of the craft, but it was an act that not only endangered the crew but also those below in Maidstone town centre."

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RESTORATION

Cold War sub could be up the creek for a new home

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THIS newspaper has used strategic Cold War-style tactics to manoeuvre interested parties to help a top secret Russian sub find a new home.

We first ducked under the radar and told you about the red war machine berthed in Strood two weeks ago. Now it seems the iron curtain stopping it finding a permanent home may have been blown out of the water, thanks to us.

In a typically clandestine operation, the owner of Faversham Creek tasked his sister with launching the ballistic idea of using the creek by floating it with this paper.

We in turn took the undercover messages to the owner of the sub, and he confirmed he could well be keen on navigating a new course.

Creek owner Michael White said: "I understand this could be turned in to a great attraction for tourists and children for educational trips.

"It would be brilliant to have a piece of history like this at the creek. I really think this could work."



Picture: SAM MURPHY

Owner John Sutton, 46, from Sidcup, is proud of his big boy's toy. He bought the decommissioned sub from the Russians with the intention of carrying out a refurbishment and launching it as a floating museum.

Currently berthed just off the old Strood pier, the 92m long hunter killer looks a sorry but spectacular sight, only she desperately needs a more permanent home so vital work on the hull can be carried out and her future assured.

Only a few decades ago, she was capable of launching a barrage of 22 torpedoes at Allied shipping in the Baltic, including two with nuclear warheads. The Foxtrot B-39, known as U-475, has just celebrated its 44th birthday having been put to sea by the Soviets in April, 1967.

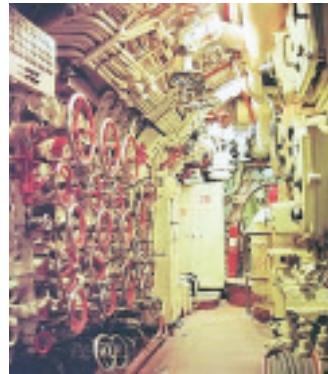
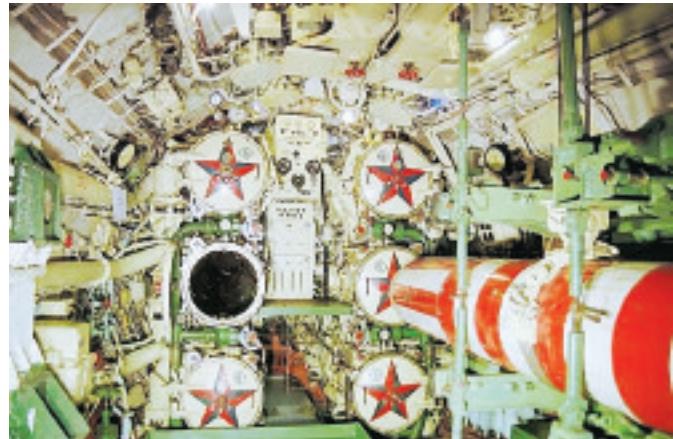
With a crew of 77, she arrived in the UK from Latvia, in July, 1994, under the command of her captain of 23 years Vitalij Burda.

When we sent a signal to Mr Sutton he responded from his secret location, saying: "That is an interesting offer. I will have to speak with him and get all the details on access and depths."

Breaking cover, he said: "This is a large submarine and finding somewhere it fits is most of the battle. I have not been to Faversham so I don't know what the water is like, but I am grateful for the paper's help in this. Fingers crossed it all works out."

Mr Sutton said: "It would be great if this mission to Faversham is a success."

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TOP SECRET: Scenes from inside the Russian sub, currently berthed in Strood



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CRIME

Police manhunt after attempted child abductions

By Jenna Pudelek

jenna.pudelek@archant.co.uk

PARENTS have been urged to be vigilant after the attempted abduction of three young girls.

Detectives have linked the three incidents, including one in Hawkhurst, and appealed for witnesses to come forward.

Police in Kent, who are also investigating an attempted abduction in Brabourne Lees, near Ashford, are working with detectives in Sussex after a similar incident in Rye on March 31.

Det Supt Rob Vinson said: "In all of the incidents young girls have been approached by a man who has used physical force to grab them.

"Fortunately, all of the girls managed to get away but we are extremely keen for members of the public to get in touch if they recognise any part of the descriptions of the man so we can bring him to justice."

All the girls described the man as white, having a beard or stubble and driving a dark blue car. Two of them said he had a 'squashed' nose.

Det Supt Vinson said: "Someone out there knows who this man is and I would appeal to them to come forward."

The first attempted abduction in Kent was on April 3, at about 8.30pm when a young teenage girl was walking along The Moor, Hawkhurst. She heard a car pull up behind her, and then a man grabbed from behind, she struggled and the man let her go.

On April 6, at about 8.30pm, a young girl was cycling along Lees Road in Brabourne Lees when she saw a car stop ahead and a man get out. As she passed the man he grabbed her lower right arm but she pulled away and he let go.

She described the man as white, in his 20s, smelling of cigarettes and scruffy in appearance.

Contact police on 01622 654867 or Kent CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

■ On Thursday a man from Cranbrook was arrested in connection with the incident in Hawkhurst. He was later released without charge, and police said he was not the man they were looking for.

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MANCHESTER United Soccer Schools is coming to Maidstone this year, and to celebrate, Archant KOS Media is giving away one action-packed two-day Player Development Course (PDC), worth £69.95.

The course, which will be held in Maidstone on August 13-14, 2011, is open to boys and girls aged between six to 16-years-old and offers the chance for participants to 'Learn to Play the United Way'.

Manchester United Soccer Schools offer aspiring players of all abilities the chance to develop fundamental football skills.

Equally as important, children also learn vital 'life lessons' relating to attitude, behaviour, communication, discipline, enthusiasm, fair play and the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, which will help them both on and off the pitch.

The two-day Player Development Course includes expert training from UEFA qualified coaches, use of state-of-the-art training equipment and an individual player

diary to help monitor progress and ongoing development.

One player from the Maidstone course will also be selected to attend Champions Day, a celebration

the PDC courses around the UK.

For more information on Player Development Courses in Maidstone, including exact location, or to sign up to the course, please visit www.manutdsoccerschools.com/2day.

To be in with a chance of winning this great prize just answer the following question:

Where is the course being held?

- A – Canterbury**
- B – Maidstone**
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GREAT WALL: Art at the Royal Sands site and (far right) how the development will look when construction is finished

ART

Brush strokes turn construction site safety fence into work of art

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FORGET China – the Great Wall of Ramsgate is set to become the latest Wonder of the County.

As Cardy Construction continues its work changing the face of the seafront with its Royal Sands development, more than 80 artists from across Kent have created unique pieces to decorate the site's hoardings.

Cardy bosses and residents wanted something more stimulating to look at than bare wooden safety walls around the development.

So volunteers, from children to a 97-year-old, gathered together to cover the 1,000 feet of wooden panels with 90 paintings.

Following on from the amazingly successful

opening last weekend of the Turner Contemporary in nearby Margate, it appears Thanet has gone art mad.

The wall will be officially unveiled on Saturday, April 23, at 2.30pm, and some of the artists will be on hand to discuss their work with visitors to the opening, which will be carried out by renowned Kent artist Charles Newington.

Cardy's new development is near Ramsgate's Main Sands on the site of the former Pleasureama funfair. Individuals and local businesses, plus donations of all sizes, helped pay for the Great Wall and it is stressed by the organisers that no public money was used.

Gerry O'Donnell, chairman of the Great Wall project said: "No-one wants to see these bare wooden panels, but I understand they are

needed. So we got together with Cardy and did what we could to change their visual appeal.

"Now this is a beautiful site for people to take photographs. It should be another tourist attraction while the building work carries on.

"That should be completed in about two years, so there is plenty of time to see our Great Wall of Ramsgate."

The development is seen as a major step forward in the regeneration of Ramsgate seafront, and has created 250 local jobs.

The landmark building by Canterbury-based Cardy Construction Limited, the company behind the development, includes luxury apartments and a hotel with state-of-the-art facilities.

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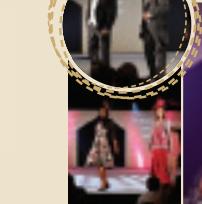
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The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.



What hope is there for Easter?

Bishop Trevor Willmott, the Bishop of Dover, offers a seasonal message of hope for world facing revolution, natural disasters and economic hardship

SINCE January, it feels like our world has been 'turned upside down'. The earthquake in New Zealand and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan have horrified us. The crisis at Fukushima nuclear plant in Japan fills us with fear.

We continue to worry about the unrest in the Middle East and North Africa. While there appears to be a favourable resolution in Egypt, following the protests about human rights which led to the ousting of President Mubarak, promises of political reforms in Syria, Bahrain, Oman, Morocco and Tunisia are yet to be fulfilled.

With western troops still in Afghanistan and Iraq, Britain and other Nato countries have now been drawn into yet another military campaign, this time in the conflict stricken country of Libya.

Closer to home, we are being forced to rethink the way our own society operates. As the country comes to terms with its debt problem, the Government

and local authorities are being forced to slash their spending. We are starting to see the effects of these cuts – support services are being withdrawn, jobs are being lost and charities are closing. We all feel more hard-up.

I have been asked where God is in all of this pain, suffering and uncertainty. I have been asked why God made a world where people lose their jobs, where people treat others badly, where accidents happen and where natural disasters occur.

God could have created a world where humans behaved like automatons and never had to make decisions, where self will was non-existent. He could have kept us all safe from harm and allowed us to all die quietly after risk-free uneventful lives.

But God created a world where something far more valuable than safety and long life could exist. He created a world in which love, joy and hope can grow. He created a world in

which humans are free to show love, help one another, work with one another, forgive one another, be generous, and respond to suffering together.

For it is amidst pain, risk, danger and tragedy that God's love can emerge in us. When human rights are persistently overlooked and injustice is overpowering, people join together in hope to bring about positive changes. When people are injured, others will risk their own lives to save them.

When thousands were made homeless by the tsunami, thousands provided space in their own homes, food, and money to help others. None of these tragedies are good, but the most special qualities of human life emerge in new ways.

God knows all about suffering. God came to Earth as Jesus Christ, where he loved and suffered and died a horrible death as the cost of confronting human injustice and sin. By dying

on the cross and rising again three days later, God reveals in Jesus his promise to us all – that love will never die.

At Easter we are reminded death is not the end, it is a new beginning. The uncertainty of 2011, be it unemployment, poverty, the repression of human rights, the violence of revolutions, or the death from natural disasters – all this suffering will never be justified, but new hope can be found in a God whose love is stronger than death.

By taking up our cause, by dying like a criminal on a cross, God literally turned our world 'upside down' and gave us a new way to give our lives in serving others: "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." The world has been transformed and together, in community, we continue this work.

With every blessing this Easter, Bishop Trevor.



6699

**At Easter
we are
reminded
that
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not the
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is a new
beginning**

KOS COMMENT

Is there no respect left for our churches?

WHETHER a regular church-goer or someone who only ventures into a religious building during times of birth, marriage or death, most people have respect for spiritual places and their contents.

So for heartless thieves to steal what they deemed scrap metal, which was in fact a precious memorial for brave soldiers who died in World War Two, seems especially shocking.

Despite the financial hardships of this country and the desperation felt by some, there are lines that must never be crossed.

This callous crime makes you question whether anything is sacred anymore.

Have a happy Easter in the April heatwave

US Brits are used to Bank Holidays filled with rain and the hope the sun might just come out long enough for the annual Easter egg hunt. So what a treat that the sun's out, perhaps even long enough to ensure next week's Royal Wedding is without a drop of rain.

Happy Easter from everyone at Archant KOS Media and enjoy the heatwave and your chocolate eggs.

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Manston key to new jobs

WITH reference to your editorial in last week's KoS, you state, "It would be foolish to assume (Turner Contemporary at Margate) is the only answer to the region's woes". That of course is undeniable.

The art gallery by its nature is bound to be of only limited appeal. Every economist knows an effective means is at hand to solve Thanet's problems – to choose Manston as the Third London Airport. Why then, oh why is Boris Johnson so dismissive of it?

It is as near as damn it in the mouth of the Thames, only a few miles away from where Boris wants the third airport. Manston has been an established aerodrome since 1918 so the objection to it by nearby residents would be negligible. It has one of the longest runways in the country, and ample capacity for more of a similar size. With the nearby Thanet Way as an extension of the M2, Manston is easily accessible to and from London.

Only a minimum sum would

be needed to be spent on infrastructure access. As the Third London Airport it would easily compensate for the loss of jobs at Piflers, and create employment in one of the most deprived areas in the country.

East Kent MPs should be trying harder to make Boris see sense, who instead wants to spend billions in building a new airport on a site only a few miles away, and cause distress by destroying or threatening to destroy homes on the Hoo peninsula in the process. I cannot see the Mayor's reasoning when a solution where to site London's Third Airport is already on his doorstep.

**MH Wise
Canterbury**

Not allowed any questions

I AM sorry Jenny Whittle was angered by my suggestion that KCC was not being open and transparent about dealing with the problem of the highly critical report on Safeguarding of Children (KoS, April 17). I have no doubt she is being thorough in her efforts to sort the problems out.

However the fact is her leader Cllr Carter refused to allow the official report into how KCC proposes to tackle the backlog of neglect to be questioned in public at the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee before the local elections.

The Conservative members who dared to suggest KCC cannot set its house in order within the promised timescale have been hauled over the coals at County Hall and sent off with their tails between their legs. They have been silenced by being invited to join a small implementation group which meets in private only.

While the report is to be debated in the council chamber, this does not replace the ability of members to closely question and get answers from both officers and members in public over typically a couple of hours' meeting.

Since Peter Gilroy, previous highest paid chief executive in the land, has claimed he was warned of the problems, and this is denied by Cllr Carter, there is some serious questioning to be done over how the situation arose in a council flaunting its 'excellent' rating at every opportunity. When

cabinet scrutiny is finally allowed to question the report I intend to call Mr Gilroy as a witness. Cllr Carter's refusal to submit to questioning in advance of the local elections is an abuse of power, and by no stretch of the imagination can it be described as being open and transparent.

**Trudy Dean
Lib Dem Leader of the
Opposition**

PCSOs are not the answer

RE: KoS April 17. All very commendable on PCSOs, however valuable the service they all provide and contribute, they are no substitute for real policemen/women with statutory power.

They do have a difficult job, there are just not too many of them, while (similar to management in our NHS) the 'brass' pocket the lion's share of the budget available and massive savings and cuts have to be made. All their efforts are jeopardized by the ineffectual judiciary and the fact we no longer have 'punishment to fit the crime'.

The victim is always to blame, perpetrators are treated better than VIPs and are encouraged to sue for damages at taxpayers' expense, because the victim was in the wrong place at the wrong time and may have infringed their 'human rights'. What of the ordinary law abiding citizens' human rights? Surely it is time for a radical approach, to bring back some deterrents, and make criminals consider the consequences of their actions.

Our police officers and PCSOs would then receive the rewards and honours they deserve, (and yes, the proceeds of crime should be confiscated and used for reparations and compensation).

Peter Lubi, Margate

AV would end wasted votes

THOSE who don't support the alternative voting system, don't support the voters' right to be fairly represented in Parliament. Under the current system, it is not uncommon for the winner of the seat to have no support from the majority of his/her constituents. And

the scare mongering by some councillors and politicians about how it could lead to extremist parties getting an MP, just goes to show they only want a system that can elect who they think is suitable, and not the electorate. I personally would not like to see the BNP's influence grow in Parliament, but it is a false democracy that can choose which people get the right to representation.

And to suppose this new system will be too complicated for us voters, is quite frankly insulting. I believe many supporters of minority parties feel their vote is currently wasted and are therefore less likely to bother voting at all, so AV should get more voters to the polling stations. Also the need to vote tactically would be removed.

**SG Moate
Appledore, Ashford**

Be funny and we'll laugh

RE: KoS April 17. Having seen Alan Carr support the hilarious Bob Downe a few years ago at the Hazlitt theatre in Maidstone and dying on his feet, perhaps these so-called new breed of comedian sjust are not that funny in the first place. If something isn't funny why should anybody laugh?

Unlike the great Bob Downe from Oz who had appeared in Kent to sold out houses and standing ovations several times, with side splitting results.

**Mark and Saz Gambell
Teynham**

Thanks, you're an inspiration

I would like to thank the record number of people who attended the annual Deal Town Meeting last Thursday in the town hall. Three speakers delivered presentations on Deal policing issues, an update on the Deal flood and transport study and the work of the Deal Community First Responders.

The floor was opened after representatives from 30 organisations took the opportunity to tell everyone about the work they do and how others could get involved. The evening demonstrated the passion and commitment of so many individuals and those taking part were inspirational and dedicated in equal measures.

**Lin Dykes, Town Clerk
Deal Town Council**

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Court ruling to have impact on insurance

Q I have just passed my driving test but have not yet got my own car. My mother has added me to her insurance, so I can drive her car, but she was advised to sort out my own insurance as quickly as possible because new laws will increase women's premiums. Is this true? KL

A Yes, this is true – probably! Everythng depends on a European Court decision that is expected next week, on Friday. A consumer group in Belgium wants the court to rule that it is illegal to charge men and women different insurance premiums, and it looks as though the judge will agree. If he does, the results will be enormous and the ripples will spread far wider than just motoring policies. Young women drivers have far fewer accidents than young men, so pay less for their insurance. The AA says women's premiums can be as much as 50pc cheaper, and could increase substantially immediately the judgment is enforced. There is no way of knowing whether the court's decision will apply at once or at a date to be set in the future, but you could be looking at paying an extra £1,000 a year. At the other end of the age scale, people approaching retirement may be badly hit. Men die younger than women, so a man with a private pension plan gets more than a woman of the same age, because her pension will typically last four or five years longer. If this is outlawed, a man retiring next month could see his pension crash by about 10pc. I suppose there is always a chance that Parliament will stand up to the European Court. MPs recently voted down European plans to give prisoners the vote, so perhaps they will also come to the rescue of young women drivers and men approaching retirement.

Q Tesco Bank is offering 5.2pc interest. Is this the same as the supermarket company, or is it a different firm? Is the account safe? PD

A Tesco Bank really is part of the huge supermarket group. But its highest interest rate on any savings account is 3.75pc. What you have heard about is a 'corporate bond', or IOU. You lend Tesco Bank £2,000 upwards, and the bank will pay annual interest of 5.2pc until 2018, when your bond will be repaid in full. Meanwhile, those bonds are traded on the stock market, with the price rising or falling each day. It is very unlikely that anything will go wrong with a company so big, but if disaster did strike, your bond would not be protected by the official compensation scheme that rescues savers, because it is a stock market investment and not a bank account. Only you can decide whether you can lock your money away, possibly for as long as seven years.

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q Our bank statement showed a direct debit payment to the power company Eon, but we do not use Eon. I told the bank, and the money was returned to our account immediately, but how did Eon get our details in the first place? LH

A Direct debit rules say your bank must replace the money as soon as you say that a payment was not authorised, so top marks to your bank for doing just that. My guess is that Eon's bank meant to take a payment from someone else's account and someone typed in your account details by mistake. Just one incorrect figure could have meant that you paid someone else's gas or electric bill. This is one more reason why we all need to check our bank statements.

Q I have been told to expect a £100 fine because I missed the January 31 deadline for filing my tax return online. Is there any appeal against this? CR

A You have told me that when you went to the Revenue website to file your tax return, you were asked to register. You were then advised you would be sent confirmation details, allowing you to file online, but those details arrived after the deadline because they were sent by post for security reasons. There is an appeal procedure, but according to the taxman it is meant for people who were ill, or whose vital documents had been lost in a flood or fire. As you had nine months to file your return, it is unlikely an appeal would succeed.

Q My grandfather had shares in Abbey National, that became shares in Santander when it took over. He died recently, and my two brothers and I are supposed to divide the small holding of shares, so none of us will end up with much. Could we sign them over to charity instead? NR

A If you have a favourite charity, you could certainly hand over the shares. Or you could contact Sharegift (020 7930 3737), which is a charity that turns unwanted shares into cash for good causes, and deals with the necessary paperwork.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Tax cheats face increased scrutiny

LETTERS are about to land on the doormats of 900 tax cheats warning them that they under an increased level of scrutiny from the authorities.

Under a programme called Managing Deliberate Defaulters (MDD), known evaders – both individuals and businesses – will be closely monitored by HM Revenue & Customs.

The scrutiny is designed to prevent tax cheats from going back to their old ways once they have been punished for their past misdemeanours.

"Tax cheat check-ups will involve continued and close scrutiny – it is a real deterrent," said Steve Hickman,

of HM Revenue and Customs.

"If you are thinking about breaking the rules, remember that you could end up with HMRC on your back for five years."

The level and term of monitoring will depend on the seriousness of the previous offence, but it is thought that anyone who is in the programme will be monitored for at least two years.

HMRC said that as well as checking that returns are filed on time and all tax that is due is paid correctly, there will be regular reviews of people's tax affairs to check that any er-

rors or failings have been put right.

"We have worked closely with the accountant community to develop this programme and their help has been invaluable in getting the detail right," said Mr Hickman.

Tax evaders who fail to keep their affairs in order are being warned they will face increasingly intrusive interventions from the authorities, and they could be subject to further criminal proceedings. Safeguards are also being put in place to ensure that deliberate defaulters do not escape scrutiny by starting new businesses under different names or identities.



EXPENSIVE BUSINESS: This young child could cost his parents more than £200,000 by the time he is 21.

Children still proving pricey

THE cost of raising a child has risen by 50pc over the past eight years, and has now smashed through the £200,000 barrier.

Even over the past year, with the official rate of inflation going way over the Bank of England's 2pc target, the cost of bringing up children has risen quicker than costs elsewhere, with a 4.5pc increase over the past 12 months.

"Parents are all too aware that having a child comes with a hefty bill when you factor in things like childcare, schooling and holidays over a 21-year stretch," said Mark Jones, head of protection at LV=, which carried out a study into the cost of having children.

"Childcare and education must feel like another mortgage payment for some parents as this is still the biggest outlay and shows no signs of slowing down, particularly when many universities are set to increase tuition fees up to £9,000 a year from 2012."

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney24 editor

The cost of raising children has been presented by LV= on an average basis, and there are likely to be huge variations between parents of different means and in different situations.

But the figures – once they have been aggregated over a 21-year period – still bring home the impact of how much it can cost to bring up a child.

According to the research, parents typically spend £67,000 on childcare and babysitting; £55,000 on education; £18,000 on food; £15,000 on clothing; £14,000 on holidays; and £10,000 on hobbies and toys.

Even pocket money apparently costs an average of more than £4,500 for each child.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, children are most expensive between the ages of 18 and 21, when they typically

cost parents £14,365 a year. And with tuition fees set to see a huge increase, education is expected to form the biggest single area of expenditure for parents from next year.

More than three quarters of those who took part in the Cost of a Child Report said the economic climate had hit them hard, with 78pc having made cutbacks or economised over the past year because of financial pressures.

Holidays and short breaks have fallen victim, and there has also been a reduction in the purchase of new clothes by nearly half the parents who were surveyed.

Meanwhile, a majority of parents said they would be affected by the changes to child benefit.

Nearly a third of parents said they expected to have to cut back their spending as a direct result of losing the benefit, which can be worth up to £66 a month for a family's eldest child.



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On the blogs

Peter Sharkey: Consider
cheaper alternatives
this Isa season

Take some action to avoid driving up motoring costs

Motoring is getting even more expensive, leading many drivers to take evasive action. **ADAM AIKEN** reports

A GROWING number of motorists are expected to change their driving habits thanks to the seemingly ever-increasing cost of running a car.

Insurance premiums and fuel have both soared in recent months, with two thirds of all drivers saying that the huge costs have taken their toll.

The price of insuring a vehicle rose by more than 30pc last year, or by an average of 44p a day, according to re-search by Moneysupermarket.com, and the cost of filling a tank with petrol or diesel has been the subject of much comment in recent months.

Environmentalists will see some good coming out of all this, with the Moneysupermarket research suggesting that 8pc of motorists are looking to ditch their cars and make use of public transport instead.

But for those people who intend to keep using their vehicles, a few tips on bringing down the cost of motoring are in order.

"With escalating fuel prices hitting motorists hard in the pocket, I'm not surprised most are looking for ways to drive down the cost of getting behind the wheel – especially when the cost of insurance cover is on the rise, too," said Peter Harrison, of Moneysupermarket.

■ INSURANCE

Mr Harrison said: "Our analysis shows car insurance prices increased by 31pc in 2010. With prices on the up, it is more important than ever that drivers ensure they are shopping around for the best deals on insurance. Those who do will reap rewards and make their hard-earned cash go further."

"When newly insuring a car, providers may lure drivers in with competitive deals or special discounts in the first year which are not ordinarily available to existing policyholders. Rest assured that if you don't shop around in the second year, certain insurers will not hesitate to increase your renewal price – hardly the thanks deserved for being a loyal customer."

Moneysupermarket reckons that more than six million drivers a year automatically renew their policies. But by sticking with their existing insurers, motorists are wasting an average of £270 each by paying over the odds.



ON THE HIGHWAY TO HELL: Motorists are facing both rising costs and increasing levels of traffic on British roads

"Insurers count on customer apathy to reap the profits, so it is alarming that so many motorists are prepared to waste their hard-earned cash by not looking for better deals.

"Even if you think your quote can't be beaten, it takes only a few minutes to make sure you really do have the best value policy to suit your needs."

However, Ian Crowder, of AA Insurance, said it was important for people using price-comparison websites to compare like with like.

"You need to make sure you know what you're buying," he said.

"Quite often when you see a lower quote on a price-comparison site, it's because there is a higher excess or because things such as legal assistance on foreign cover is not included. Those things become bolt-on goodies instead, and once you have added them to the cost of your new quote, you can find you are back where you are started."

Something else that motorists – especially young drivers – can do

to help get their premiums lower is avoid convictions

"It might sound obvious, but keep you nose clean and your premiums are likely to come down," said Mr Crowder.

"It might be uncool to drive within the speed limit, but if you avoid any claims or speeding convictions you might find your premium falls by as much as a third the first time you come to renew your insurance."

Meanwhile, if you change jobs or substantially cut your annual mileage, let your insurer know. The way you use your car can have a significant impact on what you pay.

■ FUEL EFFICIENCY

As well as the 8pc of drivers in the Moneysupermarket study who said they would be looking to switch to public transport because of rising motoring costs, nearly half of those asked said they would look to get more fuel-efficient cars when they are started.

As well as being more economi-

cal with fuel, other benefits include a cut in road tax and savings on the congestion charge when driving in central London. The AA's Mr Crowder also said he had recently come across a district council that allowed free parking for environmentally-friendly cars.

For the majority of drivers, though, it's going to be a case of taking measures to keep their existing fuel costs down.

Mr Crowder that taking a few simple steps, such as not carrying unnecessary loads around and removing unused roof-racks, would help cut the use of fuel.

He added: "Make sure your tyres are inflated correctly. If they are too soft, they will suck up fuel."

"The same thing will happen if your tracking is out. If you ever go over a large pothole or bump on to a kerb, have your tracking checked as soon as you can."

Each of these tips might save only a few pence, but the extra costs can soon add up if you don't take care.

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at Moneyfacts.co.uk, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Barclays

Barclays has launched its latest five-year-fixed rate bond. The minimum investment is £500, which pays an annual rate of 4.25pc, or 4.17pc for monthly interest. Savers with deposits of £50,000 or above will receive a rate of 4.75pc, or 4.65pc for monthly interest. Further additions are not allowed and, as with many fixed-rate deals, no earlier access is permitted. Investors must be aged 18 and over and can operate this account in branch only.

Why is it good? This is amongst the market-leading long-term bonds, as long as investors have £50,000 or more to invest. Savers must ensure they are committed to locking funds away for the duration of the term.

Savings: Nationwide

The popular Mysave Online Plus account has been relaunched, paying a monthly rate of 2.91pc, including a 1.41pc bonus for 12 months. Investments range between £1,000 and £3m. Investors can make one penalty-free withdrawal a year. If more than one is made within a 12-month period, the rate will reduce to 0.1pc for the month in which it was made. All withdrawals must be made via a nominated account. Savers must be 16 and over for this online-only account.

Why is it good? This latest deal from Nationwide heads straight to the top of the no-notice internet market with its competitive rate, including a bonus for 12 months. Whilst this is very appealing, savers must remember that only one penalty-free withdrawal is allowed a year, otherwise there is a penalty.

Mortgages: Co-operative Bank

The Co-op has reviewed its fixed-rate mortgage range. The five-year rate of 6.09pc has been reduced to 5.89pc until May 31, 2016. The maximum loan-to-value is 90pc and a fee of £999 is payable. The deal also offers a host of flexible features such as the options to make overpayments and underpayments and to take payment holidays.

Why is it good? A rate reduction of 0.2pc means this five-year deal features as one of the lower rates in the market. The high LTV will please borrowers with limited deposits, while a fee of £999 plus many features help to heighten its appeal.

Mortgages: Yorkshire Building Society

The Yorkshire has increased selected rates across its fixed range. But despite a rate increase of 0.4pc, the two-year deal at 3.79pc still offers borrowers a good overall product with a maximum LTV of 75pc and a fee of £495. A plethora of incentives are also offered. First and second-time buyers can enjoy £250 rebates, remortgagors will receive free legal fees and all borrowers enjoy free valuations. Overpayments of up to 10pc of the outstanding balance can be made.

Why is it good? The two-year product of 3.79pc remains competitive and stands out, mainly due to the low fee of £495 and the incentives.



Pictured above: Dover Exhibition Conference Hall

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EDITOR'S VIEW...

WHEN businesses make the decision to move their offices, new floor plans are often the last piece of the process. Kent Office Solutions is urging firms to consult them for a detailed pre-relocation survey, which could save them both space and money. Managing director Adrian Ponting said firms who knew their precise space requirements ahead of a new office search would save money in the long term.

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Business Week

Your business is our business

Ed says Pfizer hole will not be plugged by an Enterprise Zone

Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

LABOUR leader Ed Miliband has criticised the Government's Enterprise Zone schemes during a visit to Kent.

Mr Miliband said the new start-up zones, brought in to replace his party's regional development agencies (RDAs), would not be able to deliver the growth predicted by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Speaking at Deal's Citizens Advice Bureau on Monday, the Leader of the Opposition said he was disappointed that RDAs such as the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) had been scrapped, saying Enterprise Zones (EZs) would not propel the country out of recession.

"I'm all for anything that will help an area but I'm sceptical that the scale of intervention needed will be met by Enterprise Zones," he said.

Mr Miliband also spoke about the effect Pfizer's closure of its huge research and development site in Sandwich would have on the county.

He said: "The Pfizer decision was very disappointing - what we have to learn from the financial crisis is the need to have a broad industrial basis. There needs to be a focus on every area of manufacturing in Britain."

Kent business leaders agreed that the Government's EZs would need additional support if they were to succeed.

Jo James, chief executive of the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, said: "I agree with Mr Miliband's comments. There does need to be a focus on increasing our manufacturing capa-



FOCUS: Ed Miliband said Britain must have a broad industrial base during a visit to Deal CAB on Monday

bilities, particularly if the Government push is on getting more UK exports, then we need to increase our manufacturing outputs.

"Regarding an EZ for east Kent, it was felt by all that this would be one part of a portfolio of support for the area and we have to look at additional opportunities that are out there to support the local economy and the EZ is only part of the mix. There could be opportunities within the second round of the Regional Growth

Fund as well as potential European funding."

Thanet and East Kent Chamber of Commerce chief executive David Foley hit out at Labour's RDAs and called for local company owners to be given the powers to govern themselves.

"Any public body that takes hard-earned cash from businesses on the promise that it can spend it better than the businesses themselves has to make quite sure that it does so," he said.

"Despite the laudable efforts and intentions of its senior management, SEEDA failed to turn around deprived local economies in east Kent - the bomb site on Dover seafront, the 10-year old sign outside Buckland Mill stating "Development Coming Soon", the unemployment figures in Cliftonville at six times the South East average and Margate's dubious honour of having the highest percentage of empty shops in England are not indicators of economic regeneration.

"The sectors of tourism, manufacturing and research offer genuine beacons of hope for local businesses that would complement neatly the opening of the Turner Contemporary. In the medium term, improved transport links would save the Government money and contribute significantly to the regeneration of our area.

"Carefully-targeted public investment in key parts of our local economy, an EZ in Thanet and selected wards in the Dover district and better transport links are of course welcome. But, as a general rule, company owners here prefer to make their own decisions on where to spend the money they earn, rather than rely on the goodwill and indulgence of remote government officials in London or in Maidstone."

VINEYARD

Queen's award for Xcalibre invention

HEIGHT safety firm Checkmate has been awarded the Queen's Award for innovation.

The Sheppey company received the honour in recognition of its Xcalibre Fall Arrest Block, which prevents the most common cause of death in the workplace - falling from height.

The latest Health and Safety Executive figures show that 35 workers died and 11,700 were injured following falls in the workplace in 2008/09.

Checkmate lifting and safety managing director Oliver Auston said: "We passionately believe that innovation is a key to business success, and Xcalibre embodies that, allowing us to sell across the UK and the world against cheaper, foreign-made alternatives. Quite simply, it's the best at saving lives and preventing injury."

Checkmate, which employs almost 100 workers, won two other Queen's Awards in 2004 and 2008. Clients include the Palace of Westminster, Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.



VINE WINE: Argentinian Malbec grapes

ACCOLADE

Anglo-Argentine grape agreement

CHAPEL Down has teamed up with a South American counterpart to create an English-made Argentinian wine.

The Kent wine-producer has joined forces with the Gaucho Restaurants vineyard in Mendoza to supply the Malbec grapes that will be used to create the first Anglo-Argentine wine.

Chapel Down chief executive Frazer Thompson said: "We are delighted to have been given the chance to share our spirit of innovation with great winemakers in Argentina. We believe it's an exciting project for all parties involved, and another recognition of the quality of England's winemaking."

More than 2,100 kilos of old vine Malbec grapes have been transported 7,100 miles from Argentina to the Chapel Down winery in Tenterden.

Chapel Down will crush and press the grapes to produce up to 2,000 bottles of this limited edition wine.

The wine will then be ready to be released next year, when it will be available at Chapel Down, in Gaucho Restaurants and at selected retailers.

GROWTH

Region posts rise in overseas trade

EXPORTS from firms across the South East exceeded £11 billion in the fourth quarter last year - up 2.3 per cent on the same period in 2009.

HM Revenue and Customs data shows the region's growth for visible goods - excluding services and intangibles such as financial investments - was lower than the national average rise of 2.85 per cent.

NatWest and RBS, which analysed the figures, have joined forces with the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) to further encourage UK exports.

The Finding New International Markets category has been added to the BCC awards, sponsored by the banks.

RBS' global strategic partnerships director David Houghton said: "We're committed to driving UK business success on the international stage and have sponsored this new award to recognise those businesses which have shown this pioneering spirit."

• For more details, visit www.chamberawards.co.uk.

BREWERY

Super Dry is super lager

ASAHI Super Dry has been voted the best keg lager in the world by a panel of experts at the Brewing Industry International Awards.

The Japanese lager, brewed under licence by Shepherd Neame in Faversham, won the title after a double-blind tasting by more than 30 worldwide brewers.

Head brewer David Holmes said: "We are proud that Asahi Super Dry brewed at Faversham has been named the best of the best. This is a huge accolade for all our brewers and our partners in Japan, particularly as it has been chosen by a panel of our peers in the brewing industry."

Shepherd Neame also picked up two silver medals at the awards: Chinese beer Sun Lik, also brewed under licence, picked up silver in the same group and Whitstable Bay Organic Ale won a silver award in the Small Pack Ale Category.

This year's event attracted almost 800 entries.

PRIVATE HIRE

Day-trippers are UK's best

CAROL Peters Coach Travel has been named as the UK's best operator of the year.

The Ramsgate-based firm took first prize in the Coach Awards' small fleets category, which saw group organisers nominate their favourite operators.

A UK Coach Awards spokesman said Carol Peters were deserving winners.

A spokesman said: "The company has an enthusiastic following and the numerous club/society nominations we received all mentioned good service, helpful drivers and flexibility; one sums it up as 'friendly, accommodating and value for money'.

"The company has built a reputation as a quality operator in its locality, resulting in regular repeat business and hence is already fully booked for much of this year."

Carol Peters Coach Travel was established 13 years ago.

The family firm operates 10 coaches and offers day-trips and charter work.

ENERGY

Help propel wind farm

ECO-MINDED businesses are being invited to attend a wind farm extension event.

Energy company Vattenfall is looking to meet Kent companies keen to help build a further 17 turbines to the existing 30 turbine Kentish Flats Wind Farm.

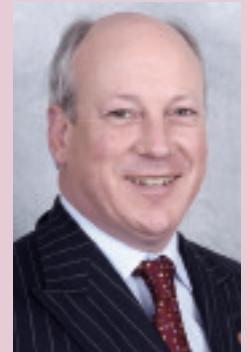
Vattenfall's extension proposal project manager Göran Loman said: "We would like to encourage local businesses to come along and find out about our proposals to extend the Kentish Flats Offshore Wind Farm."

"Although we are not yet ready to make any commitments at this early stage we do think it's important to give companies in the area an edge by providing information and getting them to think about how they could help to build the extension and win some business."

The informal event will take place at the University of Kent's Canterbury campus from 10am to 1pm on Friday, May 6.

No stone left unturned on career path to making law firm a success

The **BIG** Interview



When solicitor Nigel Burnett took up his first post at his Tunbridge Wells practice, the office did not even have electric typewriters. On the firm's 30th anniversary he told Business Week editor Simon Robinson how working 80-hour weeks in his first few years helped secured its future, paving the way for expansion throughout the past three decades.

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ther financial pressure to a practice already facing strong competition from its rivals.

Nigel said: "The first 18 to 24 months were difficult partly because of the economic climate of the time but also because the firm we took over was incredibly old fashioned.

"We didn't have electric typewriters or a telephone system that could transfer calls. That was all money going out before it was coming in, so things were hard."

The tide turned thanks to the acquisition of a large amount of work from London, combined with a similar amount of hours spent at the desk.

"We started off doing property and litigation but wound down litigation and wound up property quite quickly because that was where the business market was."

"We then started getting 50 files per month from London, which buoyed us up and got us into a position where we could expand."

"By 1983 I was working well over 80 hours per week and that carried on for most of the decade. I had very little time off but that was what was necessary to get the firm going. And it got going."

Nigel and his colleagues' initial sacrifices secured the practice's corner of the market and paved the way for further expansion during the past two decades.

CooperBurnett, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this week, has grown to a total complement of 55 people with a very low turnover of staff, many having been with the firm for more than 15 years.

Nigel said the firm's continuing success was largely thanks to their unique selling point. "Everything we do is bespoke and it is this USP that protects us. We pride ourselves on our service, approachability and we strive for excellence, all of which were very specific aims."

THERE is no sure-fire way to guarantee success in business. Those fortunate to be blessed with a solid skill set – including a level of intelligence, confidence and God-given nous – have a head start on the rest of the pack but this alone is not enough to secure a prosperous working life.

An element of luck can have a large say on how an entrepreneurial start-up career pans out and there are many more other cosmic intangibles that all come in to play.

In a nutshell, what worked for one high-achieving Man of Industry may not work for the next. However, one key element all successful businessmen seem to share is the ability and determination to graft.

This roll-your-sleeves-up attitude helped pave the way for Nigel Burnett to carve out a 30-year-and-counting career at the CooperBurnett law firm, based in Tunbridge Wells.

At the beginning of the 1980s, the then newly-qualified, keen solicitor moved to the affluent west Kent town. He joined a two-solicitor firm in April 1981 and was made equity partner five weeks later.

Reflecting on his attitude at the time, Nigel said: "I knew I could and would work hard and believed simplistically that if I kept my nose clean it would all work out."

"That was a little naive of course but I was 26; very young, too young, and at the time I didn't know what I didn't know, but within two or three months at the practice I was managing the firm as it became fairly clear that no-one else was going to do so – it was in part a matter of necessity, and in part a mutual progression of my career."

This role saw the young solicitor bring the firm's office equipment up to date, adding fur-

"If you can concentrate on those points, servicing being first, followed by approachability and excellence second equally, you can extrapolate down from that into everything you do."

"I'm very proud of what the firm has achieved, and that's greatly due to the staff we have."

CooperBurnett's position at the top end of the market has allowed the firm to prosper in a highly competitive market.

Nigel said: "There is a sector in the market that is very competitive on cost and not on service. We are not in that sector."

"Luckily we are in a part of the country where people value the service and want it and are prepared to pay properly for it. That does not mean to say we're much more expensive than others. It means we try to value what we do and charge people fairly for it. There is a sector of the community who will choose their solicitor on cost alone and go with the firm that charges the least. In Tunbridge Wells people are more interested in getting the job done right and on time."

The 56-year-old speaks with confidence and clarity, occasionally pausing to fully consider my questions before responding, ensuring he delivers his points precisely and succinctly.

While formal, Nigel also embodies the approachable and easy-going quality he expects of all his staff. He also has a relatively new age outlook on the inner-workings of office hierarchy.

"The senior partner who articled me was a pretty tough man to work for and wasn't much liked. I said back then if I ever ran a firm I would do things differently."

"I tell all new solicitors coming to work here that if your secretary is rushed off her feet then you should make her a cup of coffee, not the other way around."

"It also doesn't hurt to say please or thank you or hold a door open. These elementary courtesies all count and make for a happy workplace."

6699

A good solicitor has to have academic excellence as the law is so intensely complicated. Every day we are talking internally to try to resolve problems and clarify points of law

NIGEL BURNETT, ON MAKING THE GRADE

Having spent the last 30 years expanding his workforce to handle the commercial, private client and litigation cases CooperBurnett now handles, Nigel has an in-depth understanding of the skills required to undertake the job.

"A good solicitor has to have academic excellence as the law is so intensely complicated. Every day we are talking internally to try to resolve problems and clarify points of law."

"They also need to be approachable and have a lot of self discipline to manage their desk and clients properly. If you say you are going to ring them back you do so."

"If something has to be done by a deadline you don't leave it to the last minute. You get it done so if something crops up you are not caught out."

"When we hire a new solicitor we're searching for perfection. That doesn't exist so we get as close as we can."

Speaking about the next generation of solicitors, I ask Nigel if he has started to consider his own retirement.

"It's a good few years away yet," he said. "And besides, I think it's dangerous thinking about that as it could become attractive."



Best of Kent's produce is up for grabs at fresh food and veg farm shop

By Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

FRESH locally-sourced produce has gone on sale at Kent Life's new farm shop.

Foodari at Kent Life provides high quality Kent food to visitors while also catering for restaurants, businesses and hotels across London and the South East.

Items currently on the Maidstone shop's shelves include dairy products, fresh meats and fish, eggs, preserves, oils, nuts and snacks, seasonal fruit and vegetables, fresh bread and baked products, frozen curries, juices and crisps, as well as items produced by the Foodari Kitchen including quiches, soups, cakes, pies and sausage rolls.

Foodari managing director Jonathan Parker said: "We are very excited to be working with Kent Life to launch our first



FRUITFUL: Foodari bosses

shop. We are blessed in Kent with such a wide variety of fruit and vegetables, the very best fish and meat as well as a diverse range of other niche and artisan food businesses.

"All of these wonderful producers will be brought together for the first time at Kent Life. In times when people are

increasingly concerned about food miles and where their produce comes from, Foodari will bring the very best that Kent has to offer to the new farm shop, offering a wide selection of super fresh quality foods that have been grown, picked and produced across the county.

"We will also help to encourage seasonal eating and offer plenty of ideas for recipes at the same time."

Kent Life general manager Emily Hiron added: "The addition of the farm shop fits perfectly with phase two of the developments at Kent Life this year, which aims to celebrate Kent's history and traditions with the addition of costumed characters, new tea rooms and improved interpretation in our historic buildings."

Foodari at Kent Life is open weekdays 10am to 5pm and weekends 10am to 6pm.

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Feeling good on the inside

Kent Office Solutions can help any business looking to relocate make the crucial move with the minimum of cost and concern

By Simon Robinson

simon.robinson@archant.co.uk

SPECIALIST interiors and furniture firm Kent Office Solutions is urging businesses to rethink their relocation routine.

The Canterbury-based company, which assists clients in replacing everything from a single desk or chair through to a total office refurbishment, also offers detailed and cost-saving space planning.

Managing director Adrian Ponting said companies who were looking to move into relocating should utilise their services at the beginning of the move rather than at the end.

He said: "We can pre-survey clients' office needs based on variables such as the number of staff and filing requirements.

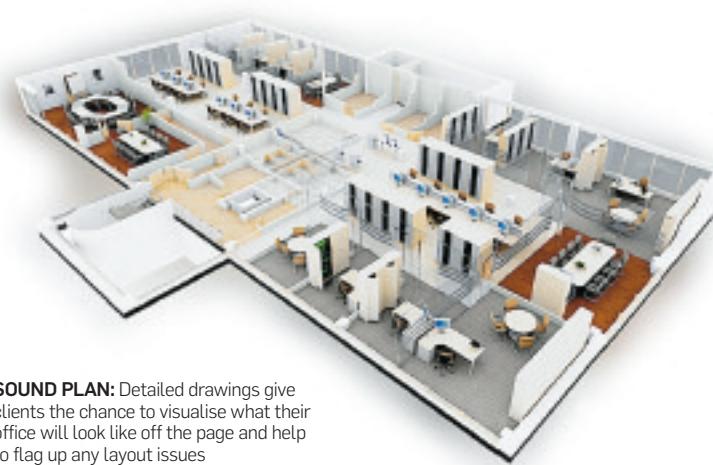
"That way we can tell them what sort of space they will need before they look in to searching for new premises.

"We want to encourage firms that are considering relocating to come to us as first port of call as well as at the end of the process, when we can put together floor plans and visuals."

Ponting added that firms who knew their precise space requirements ahead of a new office search would save money in the long-term. "Moving premises, whether to leased or freehold, involves a significant investment, it is important to future-proof that investment and we can help".

"With an issue such as filing it is important to get the right kind of filing for the right kind of job. In most cases we can reduce the footprint required by 50 per cent", he said.

"If a company has prime town centre premises, where they are paying, say, £50 per foot for office space, a



SOUND PLAN: Detailed drawings give clients the chance to visualise what their office will look like off the page and help to flag up any layout issues

four drawer filing cabinet is costing £150 per year to house. There is potentially a lot of money to be saved by detailed analysis of filing requirements."

SERVICES

■ Interior Design

Interior design can turn an average office environment into a stylish place to work. It can inject new life and energy into your employees as well as your brand. We'll assist you to decide on colour schemes and finishes and our interior specialists are only too willing to help you in your choice of soft furnishings.

■ Office Fit Out

Our fit out service covers everything you need to get your new space up and running including construction and partitioning, lighting, IT and telecoms, installation, air conditioning,



heating and ventilation, design and installation, electrical and cabling, health and safety and environment compliance.

■ Furniture

Much of our furniture we supply is designed and manufactured in the UK.



OFFICE: The Canterbury-based firm also offers furniture, fit-out and interior design services



IN CHARGE: Kent Office Solutions managing director Adrian Ponting

■ Space Planning

Clever space planning could free up space you never knew existed. We use CAD based space planning to produce floor plans and visuals which will help you visualise what it will look like off the page. It's a great way to get your colleagues excited and flag up issues.

Whatever your budget, we can find the right furniture for your business. Our range of furniture is carefully selected to combine functional performance with value for money and includes desking, seating, boardroom, conference, reception, bistro, breakout areas, storage and screens.

Taxing times ahead for owners of empty property

THE Government's radical reduction of the empty property rates exemption threshold has come into effect.

Under the previous system, owners of properties with a rateable value of less than £18,000 did not have to pay the tax applied to buildings that have been vacant for more than three months. As of April 1, this threshold figure has been cut to just £2,600.

Local government minister Bob Neill said the move will save the Exchequer £400 million in this financial year alone. But the move has been criticised by business and property leaders.

Richard Stafford, director at Ashford-based chartered surveyors Taylor Riley, said: "The Government will rake in a big bag of money but they're taking it from people who can least afford it. It's not helping farmers and

investors.

"A lot of farmers converted their redundant buildings into industrial units and offices and then let them. All the time the buildings were used for agricultural purposes they did not pay rates but now, if the property is empty, not only are they not receiving any income but they're being forced to pay money out. They are worse off than they were before.

"Similarly, little private investors who decided they wanted to take their pension fund into their own hands and invest in commercial property has found they are no longer making any money and are paying rates.

"I would have kept the threshold at £18,000. It's a good figure as it figures in rating terminology as a natural break point and is therefore a logi-

cal point to hang your hat."

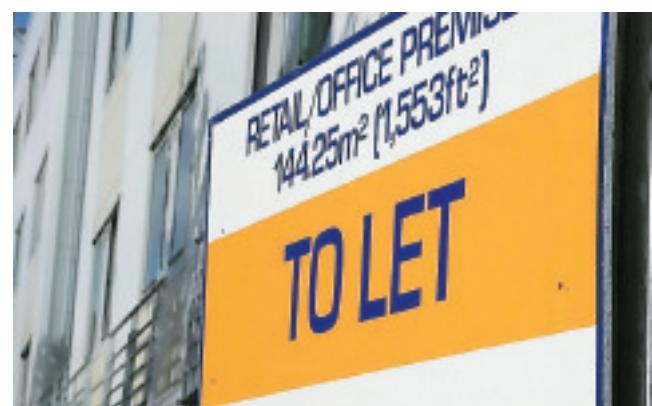
Business rates advisers CVS senior ratings consultant, Chris Barker, said the previous relief provided small business with protection at a time of "genuine hardship".

"Removing it will have very serious consequences for thousands of small businesses across England and Wales at the worst possible time," he said.

Barker added that the announcement sent out "mixed signals" about the Government's confidence in economic recovery.

"It's interesting to note, according to the Government's figures,

"the move will save the Treasury £400 million a year in lost revenue – a sharp uplift from the £185 million it cost to operate the relief in 2009-2010," he said.



EMPTY: Owners of vacant commercial properties have lost tax rate exemption

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It's jobs for Kent

Water way to earn a living with Thames

BUDDING engineers and technicians have been invited to tap into a career at Thames Water by applying to be one of the company's newest recruits.

The firm, which supplies water and sewerage services to homes across north Kent, wants to hear from dedicated workers who want to join its Mechanical and Electrical Apprenticeship Programme, or Process and Production Apprenticeship Programme.

Successful mechanical and electrical applicants will be enrolled in a four-year apprenticeship with on-the-job training from operations teams in London and the Thames Valley, who are working on some of the biggest engineering projects in Europe.

Those with an interest in science and the environment will be enrolled on a three-year scheme, working at one of the company's water or sewage treatment works.

Nick Thompson, resourcing specialist at Thames Water, said: "Our apprenticeship scheme has been running annually for about 20 years, and this year we have allocated 15 'earn while you learn' places.

"This is an excellent opportunity for people to join a vibrant and diverse company."

The closing date for applications is Friday, May 13. Visit www.thameswater.co.uk and click on 'careers', or call 0845 4607 305 to apply.

Thames Water is the UK's largest water and wastewater services company, supplying 2,600 million litres of tap water to 8.7 million customers every day.

One of the firm's current apprentices Katarzyna Gill said: "I always wanted to protect the environment and work with people.

"Thames Water has sent me on a course at Bolton College, and by the end of my studies I'm going to achieve an advanced diploma in water treatment process, which is one of the components of the advanced apprenticeship in water and sewage treatment along with my level 2 key skills and an NVQ3 in controlling process operations.

"I'm enjoying being a student as well as being a Thames Water employee. Everyone is very supportive and enthusiastic, and it's a real pleasure to be part of the team.

Women signing up to skilled trade change



What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email or give him a call on 01303 817136.



SPARKING INTEREST: Electrician Charlotte Riddle, from West Malling, set up her own business Connected Domestic Electricians with help from dad Paul

Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN INCREASING number of women are considering a change in career to prepare for the eventual recovery of the property market.

According to a survey conducted by the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC), 63 per cent of women aged 16-24 said they were more interested in learning a skilled trade rather than a profession.

The most popular job among those polled was as an electrician (35 per cent) followed by carpentry (21 per cent) and plumbing (20 per cent).

West Malling resident Charlotte Riddle, 30, set up her own business after obtaining City & Guilds qualifications in 'electrical installations' and 'inspecting/testing electrical equipment', as well as a Level 3 NVQ.

She said: "I think one of the main reasons we see few female electricians is a lack of awareness.

We need to inform young women that careers in electrical engineering are accessible, highly rewarding and not restricted to men, so there is no need for apprehension.

"Many people booking an electrician think it will be a man coming to call. Indeed, some take me for the receptionist when I answer the office phone and they ask what time 'he' – the electrician – will be arriving.

"This is not sexism, just natural assumptions people make because the trade is so male-dominated. However, these old-fashioned attitudes need to change."

After qualifying as an electrician Charlotte became Part-P registered to comply with building regulations and went into partnership with her father.

She says their business – Connected Domestic Electricians – has built up a wide client base and is prospering despite the difficult economic conditions.

"It can be exhausting sometimes," she added. "Luckily I have my father on board to help out.

We work as a team to get jobs done on time, within budget. Newly-qualified electricians looking to start their own businesses should consider partnership rather than going it alone. They can't teach you everything at college: much of what you learn is on-the-job."

Last month KoS revealed how women were being encouraged to take up careers in the construction industry to capitalise on the eventual recovery of the property market.

Despite the current high jobless figures in the South East, construction employment is forecast to reach 395,740 in 2015, with an average rate of 5,440 new workers needed every year.

Charlotte's company is one of many registered with Checkatrade, which helps people avoid cowboy builders by providing a free directory of vetted tradespeople and service providers across the UK.

Managing director Kevin Byrne said: "It is great to see more women opting for hands-on careers. It means the number of independent female traders registering with us will rise."



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Kent Youth Choir singer lands spot at exclusive music training centre

A TALENTED student from Kent Music's County Choirs group has been given the chance to train with some of the best musicians at Birmingham Conservatoire.

Davina Brownrigg, from Hernhill, near Faversham, has been a member of Kent Music's choirs for the last four years, including one year with Kent Youth Singers and three years with the Kent Youth Choir.

The youngster has now been offered a place to study for a

Bachelor of Music in voice and opera at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Davina said of her time at Kent Music: "I have loved every course, learned fantastic repertoire and made like-minded friends.

"I would like to thank the staff at Kent Youth Choir for helping me on my journey to becoming a Birmingham Conservatoire student."

Davina has also been offered a place on Youth Music Thea-

tre: UK, which gives talented youngsters the opportunity to perform never-before-heard musicals and even write and create their own.

Thousands apply every year with only 250 being selected. This year Davina will be performing in Aberdeen at the organisation's International Youth Festival.

Visit www.kent-music.com for more information on all of Kent Music's activities and county groups.

Young chefs receive tips from the top

CELEBRITY chef Richard Phillips shared some of the secrets to his success after opening a new restaurant run by students at MidKent College.

Phillips, who owns several eateries throughout Kent, helped youngsters currently embarking on level-three catering courses prepare canapes for the grand opening of the Pavilion at the college's Gillingham campus.

The courses, called extended diplomas, are mostly undertaken by 16-19-year-olds and can lead to university or a role within the student's chosen field of catering in a professional establishment.

Phillips, who has appeared on a number of daytime television programmes, participated in a ceremonial ribbon-cutting alongside principal Stephen Grix and the head of faculty for services to people, Beverley Noble.

His group executive chef Chris Bower was also in attendance to help prepare the food for the 150 people in attendance.

Phillips said: "This has been a fantastic evening highlighted by the superb food and service from the students. It is heartening to know that the future of Kent's dining and catering is in excellent hands."

Mr Grix added: "We are delighted that Richard has offered his support to the restaurant.

"It has been absolutely terrific for our students to work alongside such a fantastic role model, and for Richard to share with us in celebrating the restaurant's launch.



ADVICE: Richard Phillips with student Ben Brice

"We hope the Pavilion Restaurant will become a regular stop-off for many local families, couples and businesses."

Last month shadow Chancellor Ed Balls enjoyed a meal of belly of pork with champ potato, savoy cabbage, carrot puree and peppercorn sauce at the eatery, and told students it was one of the best he had ever dined in.

The restaurant hopes to attract local businesses and individuals for its lunch, dinner and fine dining evening. Call 01634 383327 for more information or to book a reservation.

Say 'bonjour' to a new language thanks to Medway taster sessions

PEOPLE interested in learning a new language are being invited to sign up to one of Medway Adult and Community Learning Service's new short taster courses.

The First Steps sessions promise to teach more than just the word "hello" in 12 different languages including Chinese Mandarin, Japanese, Greek, Spanish, French, Arabic, Polish, Turkish, Italian, Russian, Dutch, and German.

The five-session courses

start this Tuesday, April 26, at the adult learning centres in Eastgate, Rochester, and Green Street, Gillingham.

Call 01634 338400 or drop into one of the centres to find out how to sign up.

A spokesman for the service said: "MACLS is committed to providing a wide range of learning opportunities for adults in Medway.

"Whether you want to learn new skills for work, develop your creativity or participate

in learning activities with your children, we will have a course for you.

"Ninety-eight per cent of our learners are happy with courses they attend and find that adult classes are a great way to make new friends, broaden horizons and develop new hobbies and interests.

"We look forward to welcoming more new learners to one of our classes this year."

Visit www.maclss.com for more information.

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- Work in a supportive caring environment?

Interested?

We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

TEAM LEADER, Medway based in Strood.
Salary £16,616 to £18,049 per annum
with sleeping allowance rates as £28.70

This is an exciting role in a registered establishment adults with Autism to manage their lives with support both in their home and when using community resources. Our ethos is to promote people's opportunity, skills to engage in daily life and all it's challenges.

Your responsibilities will be in; leading a team, organising, planning daily individual needs for 6 people with Autism, supporting and developing staff skills. You will be responsible to ensure all daily administrative duties are completed with your colleagues. This is an exciting role ideally suiting a person that wants to be involved and lead a small team of staff. You will be involved in supporting people to access a wide range of activities. You will be working as part of an established staff team and shift system This role has all the necessary training and support and will give you a very good insight into the daily challenges and successes in the life of someone with Autism. Previous experience is essential and NVQ level 2 / 3 Health and Social Care is desirable.

Successful candidates will also enjoy the following benefits:

- Comprehensive induction training and mandatory training
- 25 days annual leave
- Additional hours available through casual bank and bank holiday rates

For an application form contact **Jacqui 01634 405168**
An application pack can also be downloaded from www.kentautistic.com

We are an equal opportunities employer. All applicants who are offered employment will be subject to an enhanced criminal record check from the Criminal Records Bureau.

Closing date: 27th April 2011. Interviews to be held on 16th and 20th May 2011.

For an informal chat, prior to application please contact
Geraldine Adamthwaite on: **01634 405168**
or email: gadamthwaite@kentautistic.com

TERMS & CONDITIONS

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation or practice the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and Archant KOS Media Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of the advertisement.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within this annual advertising agreement will be paid protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security will be passed to the advertiser by Archant KOS Media Ltd in relation to the use of the publishing of material via the media owner's online advertising system for the protection of the media owner's website. The media owner indemnifies Archant KOS Media Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving image owned by Archant KOS Media Ltd will be retained by the media owner or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to the use of any material promoted within any of the media owner's websites belonging to Archant KOS Media Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page layouts or full-page spreads.
9. Archant KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. It is the responsibility of the media owner to ensure that media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertisement.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media entries with Archant KOS Media Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. Archant KOS Media Ltd accepts responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. Archant KOS Media Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. Archant KOS Media Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual agreement as a result of the advertiser's negligent behaviour and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential evasions action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their developments after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to the media owner.
16. A minimum of three months notice is given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from Archant KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with Archant KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the unused length of contract defined by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per Archant KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discount given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoices in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-18 months period.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dated bookings will be on a firstcome, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advert and the cost of filming will be paid by Archant KOS Media within the advertiser's agreement (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), Media KOS Media Ltd reserves the right to charge for an additional hour's production. It's standard publication hourly rate would be the advertiser's standard rate plus Archant KOS Media Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by Archant KOS Media Ltd. Standard advertising rates apply for TV or non-commercial advertising. It is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in Archant KOS Media Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV production with a standard commercial. It is the responsibility of the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their media advertising. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engines criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
23. B. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is made and/or repudiate the contract and make all charges for breaking the contract.
24. C. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
25. D. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall due fail for immediate payment.
26. E. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
27. F. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
28. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall not be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to make the above payment.
29. Advertiser's agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
30. All terms and conditions are subject to the categories as laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be pre-paid.
31. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owner or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group as a result of legal action or threat of legal action or threat of legal action arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
32. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void as far as concerns the media owner.
33. Copyright in all advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to Archant KOS Media Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.
34. All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the media owner, the media owner and the companies within the media owner's public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions. Effective from June 2008

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The GREEN HOME Company



The Green Home Company specialises in renewable energy technology for UK homes. TGHC is looking for the following staff to be part of this growing Kent company

TECHNICAL SURVEYOR

- c. £25,000, Bonus, BUPA, Van

An opportunity has arisen for an experienced Technical Surveyor to join our expanding team.

The successful candidate may have experience of PV solar surveying and the ability to create detailed site drawings ensuring that designs meet user requirements. In addition, the ability to liaise with installation teams for effective system delivery is essential. You will be customer facing and an important team member.

Successful applicants will be contacted by the 6th May 2011.

Applicants should send their CV to:

sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

The Green Home Company, Orchard House,

Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH

www.thegreenhomecompany.com

TGHC is a subsidiary of GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities employer

The GREEN HOME Company



The Green Home Company specialises in renewable energy technology for UK homes.

TGHC is looking for the following staff to be part of this growing Kent company

WAREHOUSE MANAGER - c. £24,000+BUPA

To manage a new unit in Aylesford we are looking for an experienced Warehouse Manager with proven computerised stock control systems experience. The successful candidate will hold a current Fork Lift Licence (Reach Truck) and First Aid at Work certificate. Ability to work flexibly and on your own initiative would be an advantage.

WAREHOUSEMAN - c. £18,000+BUPA

To provide support to the Warehouse Manager, the successful candidate will have a good standard of numeracy and literacy. In addition you should hold a Fork Lift Licence (Reach Truck) and be able to work flexibly, including outside of office hours, when required. Duties will include regular repetitive light, medium and heavy lifting.

Successful applicants will be contacted by 6th May 2011.

Applicants should send their CV to: sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

The Green Home Company, Orchard House,

Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH

www.thegreenhomecompany.com

TGHC is a subsidiary of GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities employer

gml
construction

**CONTRACTS
MANAGER**
c £40,000 Bonus, BUPA, Car

GML Construction are looking for the following staff to be part of this dynamic and award winning Construction and solar PV company.

A need has arisen for highly motivated and experienced individuals to provide contract management support within GML and The Green Home Company.

The successful candidates will have excellent team management skills; able to work on their own initiative; problem solving abilities and able to work to tight deadlines within strict financial constraints. Construction experience is essential.

Applicants should send their CV to:

sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

GML Construction, Orchard House,

Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH

www.gmlconstruction.co.uk

www.thegreenhomecompany.com

GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities employer

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7-8 Hour shifts.
Telephone 01892 515532

Port Regis Residential Elderly Care Broadstairs

Requires part-time cook

(min 36hours per fortnight)

Mainly 2-7:30pm with alternate

weekend mornings - 7:30-2:30pm

Tel: 01843 602266

Named Drug Workers (YOT)

£21,519 – £27,849 plus essential car user allowance of up to £1,239 per annum

Fixed term until 31 March 2012

37 hours per week • Based Gravesend

KCA is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

This post includes managing a caseload of young people (10 – 18 years) who are involved in the Youth Offending Service and are misusing drugs and/or alcohol and experiencing complex difficulties. These may include concerns around mental health, safeguarding, homelessness, offending and chaotic substance misuse.

We are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working with young people presenting with complex needs. Possession of, or working towards, a relevant professional qualification is essential.

Applications and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk You can also email recruitment@kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 and select option three. Please quote reference 755.

Closing date: 2 May 2011.
Interview date:TBC.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equal opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance misuse or who have previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824

www.kca.org.uk

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Registered Nurse

Maurice House, Broadstairs

37.5 per week on a rota basis

Salary: According to qualifications

A new opportunity has arisen for a Registered General Nurse to support residents within our care home (nursing).

Your role will be to promote through the care team, a stimulating and caring environment by exhibiting high standards of professional practice, to enhance the physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual needs of the residents

You will be a first level nurse with demonstrable clinical experience within NMC guidelines and previous experience of managing a team. Experience of working within a Care Home or similar environment with a vulnerable client group is essential.

Cook

Maurice House, Broadstairs

20 hours per week on a rota basis

Salary: £7.93 per hour

You will be expected to provide service and provision of all meals to residents, take charge of catering service in absence of Head Chef, working with other disciplines within the Home.

Candidates will have NVQ in Cooking and Basic Food Preparation plus Food Hygiene certificate.
If you would like to apply for these roles please visit our website www.britishlegion.org.uk to download an application form to complete and email to mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk or collect an application form from Maurice House and post or deliver to Maurice House, Callis Court Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 3AH no later than the 8th May 2011

Please note that CVs are not accepted and we are not seeking the assistance of Recruitment Agencies to help us with this vacancy.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the closing date.



LEADING SOLAR INSTALLATION COMPANY SEEKS

Solar PV Installers
£24000 + bonus + benefits

One of the UK's leading solar installation companies is looking for experienced installers to carry out solar PV installations in the South East.

As well as installation expertise, carpentry/roofing /electrical experience would also be a distinct advantage.

Please forward a CV by **21st April** to
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk

The Green Home Company
Orchard House, Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent, ME17 4DH
01622 742708

www.thegreenhomecompany.com
TGHC is a subsidiary of GML Construction and is an Equal Opportunities Employer



The Green Home Company specialises in renewable energy technology for UK homes. TGHC is looking for the following staff to be part of this growing Kent company

TECHNICAL SURVEYOR

- c. £25,000, Bonus, BUPA, Van

An opportunity has arisen for an experienced Technical Surveyor to join our expanding team.

The successful candidate may have experience of PV solar surveying and the ability to create detailed site drawings ensuring that designs meet user requirements. In addition, the ability to liaise with installation teams for effective system delivery is essential. You will be customer facing and an important team member.

Successful applicants will be contacted by the 6th May 2011.

Applicants should send their CV to:
sue.palmer@gmlconstruction.co.uk
The Green Home Company, Orchard House, Westerhill Road, Coxheath, Kent ME17 4DH
www.thegreenhomecompany.com

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Saint George's
Church of England School
Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided,
Humanities College,
11-18, Mixed, Wide Ability School

ART & TECHNOLOGY TECHNICIAN

Required for September 2011
Full time post (37 hours per week)
Salary Kent Range 5
(pro rata equals £14,171 to £15,586 pa)

Due to the retirement of the current post holder, we are seeking an individual experienced in working in an art and/or technology environment using various tools and machinery. Experience of working with metal, wood, plastic and other materials is required. Good team working skills, the ability to interact positively with children and excellent resources management skills are essential.

Saint George's is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact the school to request further details and an application form (Email thomsonm@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk) or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 16 May 2011

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

PHYSIOTHERAPIST

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B2 - point 32 to 41 (£27,052 to £34,549)
(Full time - term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Physiotherapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Physiotherapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 6th May 2011 Interview Date: 17th May 2011

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

The Sittingbourne Community College

Daring to be different!

The Specialist College for Arts, Sport and Engineering.

One of the most rapidly improving schools in Kent. 5+ A-C English & Maths from 27% to 50%, and 5+ A-C from 60% to 85% in the last 3 years. Roll increased from 950 to 1,400 in 5 years (including 300 in Post 16 Centre).

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011 MATHEMATICS TEACHER

Salary Negotiable

Join a very successful department of Maths and work with a new young Head of Learning. Excellent Professional Development opportunities, 34 staff promoted during last 3 years.

Committed to Child Protection and Safety. Post subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

For further details please contact Mrs Debbie Myers, Personnel Officer, on 01795 472449 or email debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email alan.barham@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

CLOSING DATE: 13 May 2011

The Sittingbourne Community College
Swanstreet Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL
Tel: 01795 472449 Fax: 01795 470332
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RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

To assist the Director of Finance to develop and implement a purchasing policy and strategy, to co-ordinate purchasing practices, to maintain all relevant administration and hence to maximise savings and benefits available to the College from purchasing activities.

Salary scale: £22,289 - £26,408 for 37 hours per week all year

FACILITIES TEAM LEADER

To support the Head of Facilities in the running of the colleges Facilities services and the goods in team. Providing guidance to staff regarding everyday operations and helpdesk tasks and to work closely with the maintenance team ensuring the continuity of services provided to the college.

Salary scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week all year

PLUMBER/MECHANIC

To work as part of the in-house Maintenance team at the College, Carrying out PPM maintenance duties on all college equipment including: Pumps, AHUs, Valves, Radiators, and hot water heaters etc, also to attend breakdowns as required and maintain the water safety regime as required by legislation.

Salary scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week all year

ELECTRICIAN

To work as part of the in-house Maintenance team at the College, Carrying out PPM maintenance duties on all college equipment including: 3 Phase Fans, Pumps, AHUs, and Inverters etc, also to attend breakdowns as required and maintain Emergency Lighting, and PAT Testing systems as required by legislation.

Salary scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 4th May 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Abbey Court School

"We grow people"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence September 2011

MPS + 2 SEN Points +
TLR 2C £2535 (with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 13th May 2011
Interviews to be held on 23rd May 2011

For further details and an application pack, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

CARPENTER/PAINTER

To work as part of the in-house Maintenance team at the College, Carrying out maintenance duties on all college building fabric including: doors, windows, brickwork, walls, stud partitioning, concrete, painting etc, also to attend any repairs required by the help desk and to maintain a safe operational campus ensuring compliance with legislation.

Salary scale: £19,659 - £23,040 for 37 hours per week all year

EVENING RECEPTION/SWITCHBOARD

To provide an effective and efficient customer focussed reception and switchboard service at the highest level, acting at all times as an ambassador for the College.

Salary scale: £1,960 - £2,109 for 6 hours per week, 38 weeks per year

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Fixed Term for six months in the first instance To carry out general office duties and provide administrative support for employer and International related work.

Salary scale: £7,427 - £7,990 for 18.5 hours per week all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 4th May 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination





RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

Located in an attractive part of South East Kent, Thanet College is an essential provider of high quality education and training. With good capacity to improve it is a great time to work at Thanet College and we are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams.

**"Staff morale is very high"
"Leadership is strong"**

"Thanet College has good capacity to make further improvement"
Ofsted report October 2010

We currently have the following vacancies available:

PROGRAMME LEADER FOR SPORT

37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR; SALARY SCALE: £29,413 - £34,817

FULL TIME LECTURER POSTS: MOTOR VEHICLE LECTURER ELECTRICAL LECTURER ENGINEERING LECTURER

SALARY SCALE: £25,589 - £30,205

AIR CABIN CREW/TRAVEL LECTURER

28 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR; SALARY SCALE: £19,365 - £22,858

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

*Closing date for the above posts: Thursday 12 May 2011
Interviews to be held Friday 20th and Monday 23rd of May 2011
Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination*



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Book Keeper
Medway
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Air Quality Assurance
geoff@airqualityassurance.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Administrator
Canterbury
Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Accounts Assistant
Essex
Salary TBC
Full-time Accounts Assistant required for Romford accountancy practice.
Accountancy practice experience necessary. Tel: 01708 736644

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Office & IT Manager
Ashford
Salary £23,000 - £25,000
To apply/more information:
Kent Community Foundation
admin@kentcf.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Front of House Manager
Ashford
Salary £19,000 to £21,000 per annum
To apply/more information:
Ashford International Hotel
Jwilkins@qhotels.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Deputy Facilities Manager/ Receptionist
Ramsgate
Salary £7.27 per hour
To apply/more information:
Marlowe Academy
amanda.mulvihill@marloweacademy.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

uk Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

Receptionist / Customer Service

Canterbury

Salary 14k
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Accounts Administrator

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Data Manager

Kent

Salary £7.26 per hour
To apply/more information:
Marlowe Academy
amanda.mulvihill@marloweacademy.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Administrator and PA to Doctor

Canterbury

Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Canterbury Health Practice
drtracy@canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

ASSISTANT PUB MANAGER

Chatham
Salary Competitive
To apply/more information:
Shepherd Neame
trades@shepherd-neame.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CHEF de PARTIE

Cranbrook

Salary Competitive
To apply/more information:
Shepherd Neame
trades@shepherd-neame.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Chef

Deal

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Rosehurst Residential Home
01304 372312
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

Data Manager

Kent

Salary £7.26 per hour
To apply/more information:
Marlowe Academy
amanda.mulvihill@marloweacademy.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Secretary

London

Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
tara.donaghy@mcgrathgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Catering, Hospitality

Essex

Salary TBC
BUSY SANDWICH round, lively person wanted. Good rates of pay Monday-Friday 7.15am-1.15pm. Telephone 07949 235937.

To apply/more information:
07949 235937
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Child Care

Essex

Salary TBC
Hales group are looking for healthcare assistants that are urgently required to work in Colchester. We are looking to recruit HCA's to

RGN Registered Nurse

Sussex
Salary 22000-25603
To apply/more information:
pbooth@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registered General Nurse

Kent
Salary 12.5-13
To apply/more information:
spotterton@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

PRACTICE MANAGER

Kent
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
By post to above address
Quoting Job Ref: kos

RGN Registered Nurse

Sussex
Salary 22000-25603
To apply/more information:
pbooth@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

LIVELY SANDWICH ROUND PERSON

Essex
Salary TBC
BUSY SANDWICH round, lively person wanted. Good rates of pay Monday-Friday 7.15am-1.15pm. Telephone 07949 235937.

To apply/more information:
07949 235937
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Healthcare Assistant

Essex
Salary TBC
Hales group are looking for healthcare assistants that are urgently required to work in Colchester. We are looking to recruit HCA's to

work in a variety of residential settings to support vulnerable adults, children and older people.

As an experienced recruiter we pride ourselves on placing highly skilled and competent Care Assistants to assist our clients when they are unable to fill shifts internally. In return for excellent delivery of care we can offer flexible hours and a variety of shift types. Due to the nature of agency work own transport is an advantage. We also offer: Competitive pay Free Induction training Free mandatory training Entrance onto NVQ Level 2 after 3 months Free Uniform where appropriate Ongoing training and development Introduce a friend rewards Recognition programmes Access to low cost holidays and Insurance To apply for this position please call 01284 374441 or e-mail your CV to samantha@halesgroup.co.uk. Due to the large amount of applications we receive, if you do not hear from us within 7 days please assume your application unsuccessful on this occasion. Duties and Additional Comments:

To apply/more information:
pbooth@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Healthcare Assistant

Essex
Salary 16559
To apply/more information:
southjobs@mencap.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

SUPPORT WORKER

Essex
Salary 16559
To apply/more information:
southjobs@mencap.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Education, Teacher, School

Essex
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
samantha@halesgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Support Worker

Essex
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
samantha@halesgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Essex
Salary 8.25
To apply/more information:
tom@halesgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Home Manager (RGN)
Surrey
Salary 28000-30000
To apply/more information:
catkin@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Nurse Practitioner

London
Salary 28000-40000
To apply/more information:
ifish@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Healthcare Assistant

Kent
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
haslingtonhome@aol.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

RGN

Kent
Salary 21164-25012
To apply/more information:
pbooth@strgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

APPRENTICESHIPS

London
Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
james.smith@marleyshumbers.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Engineering, Manufacturing,



Jobs by Email

Be the first to receive the latest Kent Jobs

Utilities

Sheet Metal Worker

Welder

Sheerness

Salary £9.00 Per Hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency
(The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Fabricator

Rochester

Salary £8-8.50 an hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency
(The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Beauty

Stylist

Ashford

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Mayfair Salon
01233 623926
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HEAD OF GIRLS' PE

Sittingbourne

Salary Minimum £35k
To apply/more information:
Sittingbourne Community
College
alan.barham@
sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Health & Safety, Security, Defence

Plant Health Imports Inspectors

Essex

Salary 20743
To apply/more information:
01904 462302
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Forklift Clamp Drivers

Chatham

Salary £6 - £7 per hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency
(The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Weighbridge Operator

Canterbury

Salary £7.50 per hour
To apply/more information:
Best Connection Agency
(The)
maidstone@
thebestconnection.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Lighthouse Technician

Essex

Salary 23490-27048
To apply/more information:
020 7739 7478
Quoting Job Ref: kos

7.5 Tonne Drivers

London

Salary TBC
7.5 TONNE DRIVERS to work
for local removal company in
Shoreditch, E2Please
call 020 7739 7478 & speak
to Mia or Peter
To apply/more information:
020 7739 7478
Quoting Job Ref: kos

REMOVALS PORTERS

London

Salary
To apply/more information:
020 7739 7478
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Weighbridge Operator

London

Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
tara.donaghy@
mcgrathgroup.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Motor Trade, Driver

HGV 1 DRIVERS

Dartford

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
MJD Group
dennis@mjgroupitd.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MOT Tester/Mechanic

Broadstairs

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Albany Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CLASS 1 HGV

Essex

Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Not for profit, Charities

Male Community Support Worker

Canterbury

Salary £5.33-£8.49 per hour
To apply/more information:
East Kent Mencap
Lynda.Salisbury@
eastkentmencap.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: CSW0010

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Dental Nurse

Whitstable

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Whitstable Dental Surgery
aycliffe@gmail.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Carers and Nurses

Pembury & Paddock Wood

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Barrington Macey
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Other

EARN AN INCREASING MONTHLY INCOME...

Kent

Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
Utility Warehouse
johnandshella@minibills.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

Digital Sales Director - E-commerce

London

Salary 45000-70000
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA
gkane@xchangeteam.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Print, Packaging, Distribution

Estimator

Ashford

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Headley Brothers Limited
andy.owden@headley.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos01

Public Relations, Media,

Journalism

Ecommerce Consultant

London

Salary 26000-33000
To apply/more information:
gkane@xchangeteam.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

HGV 1 DRIVERS

Dartford

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
MJD Group
dennis@mjgroupitd.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

MOT Tester/Mechanic

Broadstairs

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Albany Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos

CLASS 1 HGV

Essex

Salary TBC
To apply/more information:
ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Not for profit, Charities

Male Community Support Worker

Canterbury

Salary £5.33-£8.49 per hour
To apply/more information:
East Kent Mencap
Lynda.Salisbury@
eastkentmencap.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: CSW0010

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Dental Nurse

Whitstable

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Whitstable Dental Surgery
aycliffe@gmail.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Carers and Nurses

Pembury & Paddock Wood

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Barrington Macey
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Telephone Sales Executives x2

Ashford

Salary Negotiable
Telephone Sales Executives x2Maternity Cover fixed
termif you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply. You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. We believe in and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Media experience is not essential as full training will be given. We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to: Ynez Coton, Commercial Director, ARCHANT KOS MEDIA Apple Barn, Hythe

Print, Packaging, Distribution

Estimator

Ashford

Salary Negotiable
To apply/more information:
Headley Brothers Limited
andy.owden@headley.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos01

Public Relations, Media,

RdSmeeth, Ashford Kent, TN25 6SS or email
ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

To apply/more information:
ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos04

Public Sector, Social Services

Carers and Nurses

Pembury & Paddock Wood

Salary Negotiable
Barrington Macey
Carers and Nurses required.
Starting at £18,500 per annum,

Full time work, with a specialist client on 1 to 1 basis
in client's own home in Pembury / Paddock Wood area.

Must be female and have previous experience in care work.

NVQ 2 is desirable.

To apply/more information:
Barrington Macey
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Finding staff

24-7

JobsforKent.co.uk

To advertise in this section or online

looking to start a career in Health & Social Care or Child Care? We are currently looking to recruit Six Apprentice Carers under the Apprenticeship Scheme. • Five successful candidates will work within Strode Park Foundations services supporting adults with disabilities. • One successful candidate will work within Strode ParkFootprints supporting young children with disabilities aged between 2yr - 16 yrs of age. Our dedicated senior team will provide you with all the training and support to obtain the Diploma 2 in Health & Social Care and Diploma 3 in Health & Social Care for Children and young people.

For further details on the above posts please contact Sandra Wiltshire for an informal chat on 01227 373 292 or email: recruitment@strodepark.org.uk for an application pack. The above posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure being obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply/more information:
Strode Park Foundation
recruitment@strodepark.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Registered Nurse

Herne Bay

Salary Negotiable
A major resource centre specialising in the care and support of adults with disabilities. Strode Park Foundation has over 60 years experience in working with people with disabilities, providing long stay and rehabilitation services.

Registered Nurse Take the opportunity to nurse, where you can really make a difference, within our 56 bedded resource centre supporting people with disabilities. You will be able to offer a person centred approach to independence, well being and choice whilst every hour of your working day will be stretching and fulfilling. • You must have at least 2 years relevant experience. • Working Hours: Full Time 30-37.5 hrs We offer an attractive remuneration package with excellent opportunities for further development.

Excellent working environment with free on site parking and all meals included.

For further details on the above posts please contact Sandra Wiltshire for an informal chat on 01227 373 292 or email:

recruitment@strodepark.org.uk

for an application pack. The above posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure being obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply/more information:
Strode Park Foundation
recruitment@strodepark.org.uk
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Apprentice Carers

Herne Bay

Salary £10.00 per week
A major resource centre specialising in the care and support of adults with disabilities. Strode Park Foundation is a charity with over 60 years experience in working with people with disabilities, providing long stay and rehabilitation services. Apprentice Carers Are you

looking for a role ideally suited to a person that wants to be involved and lead a small team of staff. You will be involved in supporting people to access a wide range of activities. You will be working as part of an established staff team and shift system. This role has all the necessary training and support and will give you a very good insight into the daily challenges and successes in the life of someone with Autism. Previous experience is essential and NVQ level 2 / 3 Health and Social Care is desirable. Successful candidates will also enjoy the following benefits:

• Comprehensive induction training and mandatory training. • 25 days annual leave • Additional hours available through casual bank and holiday rates For an application form contact Jacqui 01634 405168. An application pack can also be downloaded from www.kentautistic.com We are an equal opportunities employer. All applicants who are offered employment will be subject to an enhanced criminal record check from the Criminal Records Bureau. Closing date: 27th April 2011. Interviews to be held on 16th and 20th May 2011.

For an informal chat, prior to application please contact Geraldine Adamthwaite on: 01634 405168 or email: gadamt@kentautistic.com

To apply/more information:
Kent Autistic Trust
personnel@kentautistic.com
Quoting Job Ref: kos

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

TEAM LEADER

Strode

Salary £16,616 to £18,049 per annum

The Kent Autistic Trust is a very well respected specialist provider of services for people across the spectrum of Autism. It is an innovative charity providing residential care, day activity services and support. The Trust encourages maximum independence, choice and use of community resources, within a supportive environment. The Trust offers excellent training in the field of Autism, Learning disabilities, positive approaches to behaviour that challenges and autism friendly approaches including specialist communication methods and structured environments.

• Do you want to make a difference to people's lives?
• Come to work and go swimming, bowling, cinema, theatre etc? • Work in a supportive caring environment? Interested? We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

TEAM LEADER, Medway based in Strode

Salary £16,616 to £18,049 per annum with sleeping allowance rates as £28.70

This is an exciting role in a registered establishment with Autism to manage their lives with support both in their home and when using community resources. Our ethos is to promote people's opportunity, skills to engage in daily life and all its challenges.

Your responsibilities will be in; leading a team, organising, planning daily individual needs for 6 people with Autism, supporting and developing staff skills. You will be responsible to ensure all daily administrative duties are completed with your colleagues. This is an

Please send your CV to Paul Palmer, Headley Brothers Ltd, The Invicta Press, Queens Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8HH, or by email to: paul.palmer@headley.co.uk. All applications should include reference number: KOS01. Closing date: Friday 15th April 2011.

Please note that responses

will only be issued to

applicants that are eligible

for interview.

would be ideal. The role will be all active sales, telesales, marketing, providing quotes and taking orders. You will also be speaking to customers both new and existing to generate business, keeping the database updated. The targets set are achievable, and on top of the basic salary, you will be eligible for an individual, as well as a team bonus.

The hour are Monday to Friday 8:30am-5:00pm, with half an hour for lunch, and 2 breaks per day.

For all enquiries please email

maidstone.admin@thebestconnection.co.uk

To apply/more information:

Best Connection Agency

(The)

maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

would be ideal. The role will be all active sales, telesales, marketing, providing quotes and taking orders. You will also be speaking to customers both new and existing to generate business, keeping the database updated. The targets set are achievable, and on top of the basic salary, you will be eligible for an individual, as well as a team bonus.

The hour are Monday to Friday 8:30am-5:00pm, with half an hour for lunch, and 2 breaks per day.

For all enquiries please email

maidstone.admin@thebestconnection.co.uk

To apply/more information:

Best Connection Agency

(The)

maidstone@thebestconnection.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

TELESALES OPERATIVES

London

Salary 6

WANTED/EXPERIENCED

TELESALES OPERATIVES Come and work for a growing family business. Must have very good telephone manner and be confident, professional and target driven. 9.1 - 10.5 Salary £6,000 per hour + bonus for each booking. Call 0800 917 6726 To apply/more information:

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

applications@obsforkent.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Advertising Sales Person

Canterbury

Salary Negotiable

Advertising Sales Person wanted for the Canterbury area. A strong proven background in local media sales required. Good basic plus commission. Please call in the first instance Stephen on 07977 222993.

To apply/more information:

SG Media

07977 329093

Quoting Job Ref: kos

Scientific & Pharmaceutical, Research

Shift Analytical Chemist

Essex

Salary

Industrial Chemicals LTD

We are a medium sized chemical manufacturer with several

businesses in water treatment, detergent, flame-retardant and speciality chemicals.

The company has six operational sites in the UK

and one in the U.S. C.V. to

Mrs L. Hamer Industrial Chemicals Limited

Titan Works, Hogg Lane, Grays, Essex, RM7

5D

Email: cdarby@icgl.co.uk

To apply/more information:

cdarby@icgl.co.uk

Quoting Job Ref: kos

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

WRENS NEST LANE, HIGH HALDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new electrical supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wrens Nest Lane, High Halden, on or after 9 May 2011 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Shawlands Lane and Hookstead.

The alternative route is via Shawlands Lane, Thurston Lane and Wrens Nest Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

ROSS GARDENS, ROUGH COMMON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of ducting works in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ross Gardens, Rough Common, Canterbury, on or after 11 May 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside numbers 37-42.

The alternative route is via Rough Common Road and the other junction of Ross Gardens.

SCHOOL LANE, HERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable scaffolding to be in place for building maintenance and to allow safe movement for pedestrians where the road is narrow, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on School Lane, Herne, on or after 9 May 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the Smugglers Inn.

There will be no access for through traffic between A291 Herne Street and the rest of School Lane.

The alternative route is via A291 Herne Street, Canterbury Road, Mill View Road and Mill Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

SOLTON LANE (WHITE HILL), LANGDON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable railway infrastructure works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Solton Lane (White Hill), Langdon, on or after 14 May 2011 for up to 3 Saturday nights over 6 weeks.

Overnight closures are planned for Saturday 14 May 2011
Saturday 4 June 2011

There will be a further closure on Saturday 25 June 2011 if it has not been possible to complete all the works on the 2 earlier dates.

The planned closure times are between 9.00 pm through to 9.00 am.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via Solton Lane, A258 Deal Road, Hangman's Lane, The Street, East Langdon Road and White Hill.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works to clear a blockage in a duct in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between numbers 30 and 61.

The alternative route is via The Street, A258 London Road and Sholden New Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Dover, on or after 10 May 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

GORE LANE, EASTRY between Mill Lane and Gore Road

From 10 May 2011 for 4 days

Alternative route via Mill Lane, High Street, Woodnesborough Lane, Gore Road

PINEHAM ROAD, GUSTON – between The Street, Guston and Abbey Road, Whitfield

From 16 May 2011 for 3 days

Alternative route via East Langdon Road, Watersheer Lane, Abbey Road

GUSTON ROAD, EAST LANGDON – between Solton Lane and Watersheer Road

From 19 May 2011 for 2 days

Alternative route via Church Lane, East Langdon Road and Watersheer Lane

MILL LANE, WORTH - between A258 Deal Road and Hay Lane

From 23 May 2011 for 2 days

Alternative route via A258 Deal Road, Burgess Green, Broad Lane, The Street, Finglesham Road, Back Road, Hay Lane

HAY LANE, EASTRY – between Back Road and Hay Hill

From 25 May 2011 for 3 days

Alternative route via Back Road, Updown Lane, Hay Hill

These works are weather dependent, and the timing may be affected by adverse conditions.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES (CONSOLIDATION)) (AMENDMENT NO 7) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(3), 35(1), and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce parking bays on the southern side of Cross Lane East, Gravesend on the length fronting Nos 1 Echo Square westwards to include Echo Court.

The Order was sealed on 22 April 2011 and will come into force 27 April 2011

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1AU and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (DUNN STREET ROAD, BREDHURST) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Dunn Street Road from Forge Lane to Lidsing Road on or after Sunday 1st May 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane, Lidsing Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused, which is necessary for highway improvement works. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Darren Hickman on 08458 247 800.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, YALDING (SPECIAL EVENT) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (SPECIAL EVENTS) ACT 1994

Notice is hereby given that whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on the High Street, Yalding.

The Order will be effective between 1400hrs to 2000hrs on the 29th April 2011 or until the event finishes. The road will remain closed when appropriate signage is displayed on site.

The alternative routes for traffic during the event will be signposted. For light vehicles via Vicarage Road, Mill Lane and for large goods vehicles via the B210/A229 to Maidstone, the A26 Tonbridge Road and A228/B2105/B2162 or vice versa.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Royal Wedding street party to take place.

For further information please contact Kent Highway Services on 08458 247 800.

ROAD FARM LANE, OTTERDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Road Farm Lane, Otterden, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Slade Road for a distance of approximately 100 metres northwards.

The alternative route is via Seed Road, Frith Road, Foxen Road, Wyebanks Road and Road Farm Lane.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

OTFORD ROAD, SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Otford Road, Sevenoaks (residential access road running parallel to main road) from number 114 to 200.

The Order will become effective on 9th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 10 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate main laying works.

SWANLEY VILLAGE ROAD, SWANLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Swanley Village Road, Swanley from its junction with Beechenlea Lane for 50m.

The Order will become effective on 9th May 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 10th May 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: School Lane, Goss Hill, Gildenhill Road, Church Road and Wood Street

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

WEST ROAD, CHERITON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a defective area within the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on West Road, Cheriton, on or after 9 May 2011 for up to 3 nights or until the works have been completed.

The works are planned to be carried out between 7.00 pm and 5.00 am each night, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed from the junction with Pond Hill Road for approximately 80 metres southwards.

The alternative route is via B2063 Hospital Hill, A259 Sandgate Esplanade, Sandgate High Street, B2063 Military Road and North Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

PIERREMONT AVENUE & SOWELL STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to potholes, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pierremont Avenue & Sowell Street, Broadstairs, on or after 10 May 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

PIERREMONT AVENUE will be closed from the junction with High Street to outside number 6. From 10 May 2011 for 1 day, between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm

The alternative routes are Southbound via High Street, Clarendon Road and Pierremont Avenue Northbound via Pierremont Avenue, Queens Road and High Street.

SOWELL STREET

for its entire length From 16 May 2011 for 2 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm The alternative is via St Peter's Road, The Broadway and B2053 St Peter's Park Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of surface dressing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Thanet, on or after 27 April 2011 for up to 3 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, planned dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below. There are 2 closures for each road, firstly 1 day for Surfacing Dressing and then 1 day for sweeping & lining.

SEAMARK ROAD, BIRCHINGTON

Surfacing on 27 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 4 May 2011

Alternative route via A28 Canterbury Road, A299

Thanet Way and Seamount Road

Access to Thanet Earth from A299 will be unaffected

PARK ROAD, BIRCHINGTON

Surfacing on 27 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 4 May 2011

Alternative routes

EAST BOUND via Shottendane Road, Minster Road,

Canterbury Road, Charlesworth Drive and The Parkway

WEST BOUND via Shottendane Road, Manston Road,

Park Lane, Stone Barn Avenue, Linnington Road and Cornford Road

THE STREET, ACOL

Surfacing on 10 May 2011 then sweeping & lining on 17 May 2011

Alternative route via B2050 Manston Road, B2190

Spitfire Way and Minster Road

MANSTON COURT ROAD, MARGATE

Surfacing on 28 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 5 May 2011

Alternative route via B2050 Manston Road and A256

Haine Road

MINSTER ROAD, WESTGATE

Surfacing on 28 April 2011 then sweeping & lining on 5 May 2011

Alternative route via Shottendane Road, Garlinge High Street and Canterbury Road

COTTINGTON ROAD, CLIFFSEND

Surfacing on 10 May 2011 then sweeping & lining on 17 May 2011

Alternative route via Foads Lane, Cliffs End Road,

Sandwich Road, Canterbury Road West, A229 Thanet Way, Tophill Street, Foxborough Lane, The Lanes and Grinsell Hill

NASH ROAD, MARGATE

Surfacing on 22 May 2011 then sweeping & lining on 29 May 2011

Alternatives route via Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road (return via College Road), Ramsgate Road, Margate Road and A256 Haine Road

Planned dates are given for each road, but the works are weather dependant and part of a major programme, so it is likely there will be some minor changes.

Roads that are missed will be deferred until further on in the programme, with the revised dates locally signposted

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FARNHAM LANE, LANGTON GREEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Farnham Lane outside "Cherry Trees" on or after Monday 9th May 2011 for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Dorndon Drive, Long Meads, Nellington Road, Farnham Lane.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for installing cabling. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Dover, on or after 10 May 2011 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to clear a blockage in a duct in the carriageway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between numbers 30 and 61.

The alternative route is via The Street, A258 London Road and Sholden New Road.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Sholden, Deal, on or after 26 April 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

THE STREET, SHOLDEN, DEAL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WEST ROAD, GOUDHURST)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS)
ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on West Road from North Road/Balcombe's Hill to Old School on or after Wednesday 11th May 2011 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via A262 Station Road, A21 Lamberhurst By-Pass/Hastings Road, A268 The Mount/High Street, A229 Cranbrook Road/Hawkhurst Road/Hartley Road/Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road/Cranbrook Road. Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for carriageway patching. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Susan Laporte on 08458 247 800.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XQ

Dated 24th April 2011

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800
(local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHWAYS – Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**(BROADWATER ROAD, WEST MALLING)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY
ORDER 2011**
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Broadwater Road West Malling from the railway approximately 200m north, on or after Wednesday 27th April 2011 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Well Street, Stikens Lane, Mill Street, Clare Lane and vice versa.

UK Power Networks apologises for the inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to install a new electrical supply. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Steve Bicknell on 07920 150789.

KATHERINE KERSWELL, Group Managing Director,
Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 2XQ.

For further information please
contact Kent Highway Services
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**KCC/DO/0100/2011 - Proposed development at
4 locations in Dover, rear car park at 1-10 Brookfield Place, CT16 2AE,
2 St Radigunds Road, CT17 0JX, 1-10 Maison Dieu Road car park,
CT16 1RN, and Buckland Mill Development, Crabbe Hill, CT17 0RZ.**

Southern Water Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for kiosks and vents at three locations in Dover in support of flood alleviation sewer improvements supported by one temporary contractor's compound on vacant land at Crabbe Hill, Dover. The proposed development may affect the setting of a Listed Building.

You may view this application at Dover District Council, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PJ or at our offices at the address below during all reasonable office hours. Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson, Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 24 April 2011



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/01013/FUL Benenden Girls School Cranbrook Road, Benenden
- Proposed refurbishment and widening of existing ring road and installation of timber posts and link fence (LB)

11/00990/HOUSE The Farthings Crook Road, Brenchley
- Single-storey rear extension (LB)

11/01057/HOUSE Branden Biddenden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Retrospective: 2no solar panels in the garden (LB)

11/00873/FUL Frank Bell Centre Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst
- Retrospective - 2 no. air handling units fitted externally to the north and south elevations (LB)

11/00876/LBC Frank Bell Centre Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst
- Listed Building Consent - 2 No. air handling units fitted externally to the north and south elevations (works already completed) (LB)

11/01010/LBC 2 Weavers Cottages Church Road, Goudhurst

- Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to the rear room which includes the removal of modern concrete floor and installation of new concrete floor to allow floor levels to be the same throughout and in cupboard under the stairs. Installation of a shower room (LB)

11/01032/HOUSE Sandhole Cottage Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Glazed link to studio (LB)

11/01039/LBC Sandhole Cottage Lamberhurst Road, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent: Glazed link to studio (LB)

11/01061/LBC The Coach House Broadford, Horsmonden
- Listed Building Consent: Removal of part of wall between kitchen and study, work already carried out (LB)

11/01090/HOUSE School House Farm School House Lane, Horsmonden

- Demoilish modern extensions to rear and porch to side; single-storey extension for new kitchen and rebuild porch; reinstate front door; conversion of existing barn to 2-bed annexe; landscape area between house and barn; and two bay garage to draw driveway away from house and soft landscape added (LB)

11/01094/LBC School House Farm School House Lane, Horsmonden

- Listed Building Consent - Demolish modern extensions to rear and porch to side; single-storey extension for kitchen and rebuild porch; insert dormer window in rear roof slope and amendments to the roof; reinstate front door; and conversion of existing barn to 2 - bed annexe; landscape area between house and barn; and two bay garage to draw driveway away from the house and soft landscape added (LB)

11/01005/OUTMJ Little Rhoden Farm Lucks Lane, Paddock Wood

- Outline: Part demolition of existing buildings and the construction of replacement buildings with extension of existing retained building for B8 storage and distribution use and for marquee hire companies. Removal of portacabins. Scale and appearance to be Matters Reserved (Amendment of TW/10/01097) (MAJOR)

11/00989/FUL 46 Madeira Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks

- Change of use from Childens Home to single dwelling (CA)

11/01078/HOUSE 57 Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Demolition of part ground floor and roof to chalet bungalow, construct two-storey side and rear extensions (CA)

11/00650/FUL 7 Camden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park

- Change of use retail premises from Class A1 (Shops) to Class A2 (Financial and Professional Services) (CA)

11/00932/HOUSE Heathgate Cottage Langton Road, Rusthall

- Relocation of existing vehicular access and installation of acoustic fencing (CA)

11/00924/HOUSE Holden Coach House Holden Road, Southborough North

- Single-storey side extension to form study/bedroom 3 (LB) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting a Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 23 April 2011

PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Act

Notice of Applications

MA/11/0416/N - 31, BREWER STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1RU - Erection of a two storey rear extension and alterations including internal to create additional flat (currently 3 flats). Reason: 2

MA/11/0432/S - BLACKTHORN MEDICAL CENTRE, ST ANDREW'S ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9AL - An application for listed building consent for the repair of part of the listed wall forming the boundary between Blackthorn Trust and St Andrews Park. Reason: 3

MA/11/0479/N - DRYING LOFT, TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5PP - An application for listed building consent for insertion of additional window in rear (east) elevation and replacement of doors with window panel in side (south) elevation. Reason: 3

MA/11/0486/S - LAND ADJOINING 12, LOWER FANT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Application for a new planning permission to replace extant planning permission MA/08/1409 (detached house with integral parking and driveway) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. Reason: 1

MA/11/0494/N - DRYING LOFT, TURKEY MILL, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5PP - Insertion of additional window in rear (east) elevation and replacement of doors with window panel in side (south) elevation. Reason: 1

MA/11/0511/S - WIERTON PLACE, WIERTON ROAD, BOUGHTON MONCHelsea, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4JW - Change of use of existing nightclub and apartments to 1 dwelling and 6 apartments, including extensions and internal works; conversion and extension of the existing ball room to 2 dwellings; demolition of existing garage block and erection of 4 terraced properties; conversion and extension of existing glasshouses to 6 dwellings; and the erection of 5 detached dwellings to the north and south of the access track, together with associated access and landscape works. Reason: 3

MA/11/0517/N - THE PINES, SUTTON STREET, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HP - Erection of a replacement dwelling (Resubmission of MA/10/0215). Reason: 1

MA/11/0521/N - 1, FLINT COTTAGES, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RY - Erection of single storey rear extension. Reason: 2

MA/11/0525/S - LAND AT, CHURCH LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, KENT - Change of use of agricultural land to a car park to serve All Saints Church, West Farleigh. Reason: 1

MA/11/0526/N - MILLSTREAM HOUSE, BOARLEY LANE, SANDLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DD - Erection of a side and rear extension, infilling of front balcony with new dormers and erection of a porch. Reason: 1

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 4 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **8th May 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: 24th April 2011.



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PROW - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

NOTICE OF COMING INTO FORCE OF PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 257

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATHS MR177 & MR184 (PARTS) TROTTSCLIFFE) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2009

On the 8 April 2011 certification was given that the terms of Article 2 of the Order requiring works to be carried out had been complied with, thereby enabling the Order to Come into Force. Copies of the Order may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ, or the Kent County Council, Countryside Access, at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Countryside Access
Kent County Council
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX
Tel: 01622 221512

Dated: 23 April 2011

The above notice may be provided in other formats

For further information,
please contact
Kent Countryside Access
Service, on 0845 345 0210
(Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



To place your notice here call the Kent Public
Notice team on **01303 817044**

MARRIAGE LICENSES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **North Foreland Golf Club, Convent Road, Broadstairs**

Applicant: **Mr Tony Adams**

Name of Premises: **Stonelees Golf Centre, Ebbsfleet Lane, Ramsgate**

Applicant: **Mr Robert Chapman**

Plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1X



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Holiday Inn Maidstone-Sevenoaks, London Road, Wrotham Heath**

Applicant: **Mr Kevin Pugh**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration,
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House,
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1X



PREMISES LICENSES

PREMISES LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that Hardeep Singh Randhawa & Surinder Kaur Randhawa of 3 The Avenue, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0NA has applied to Gravesend Borough Council for the Variation of Supply of Alcohol Current times: Monday to Saturday 8am – 11pm Sunday 10am – 10.30pm to proposed times Monday to Saturday 7am – 11pm, Sunday 7am – 10pm for the premises Costcutter situated at 25 Darnley Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0RZ.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at <http://www.gravesend.gov.uk/licensing> or at Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU tel. 01474 337334 by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to my/our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 10 may 2011.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement has been issued.

I, Geoff Harvey, on behalf of Concept Ideas Ltd, am applying for a Premises Licence at 186 High St, Rochester, ME1 1EY.

My application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR. I am applying for the following licensable activities Sale of Alcohol (8.00am until 2.00am Mon to Thurs; 8.00am until 2.30am Fri & Sat; 8.00am until 0.00am Sun), Regulated Entertainment (9.00am until 2.00am Mon to Thurs; 9.00am until 2.30am Fri & Sat; 9.00am until 0.00am Sun), and Late Night Refreshment (23.00pm until 2.00am Mon to Thurs; 23.00pm until 2.30am Fri & Sat; 23.00pm until 0.00am Sun).

Should you wish to make representations to the Council, it must be in writing and/or you can view my application by contacting the Council on 01634 337107 or 01634 337108 by the 6th May 2011.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5000.



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BATES

Adam Bates and Shan Jiang of Sevenoaks are pleased to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Rachel Yumeng Jiang Bates, born on 1st April, 2011, weighing 7lb 4oz. You are the miracle we will love and treasure forever.

BURLETON

Mel and Ian are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby son Tristan, born on 4th April, 2011, weighing 7lb 4oz. A baby brother for Alyssa and Cerys.

EVERSON

Franklin Terence John born on 23rd March, 2011, weighing 10lb 5oz. Son to Julia and John Everson and brother to Isabel, Phoebe and Fred.

FLETCHER

Tilly Fletcher born on 29th March 2011, weighing 7lb 10oz. Daughter to Tamsin and Mark and sister to Ben.

DEATHS

SWANBOROUGH

Pamela Betty Swanborough died 13th April 2011, aged 83. Sadly missed and loved by Alan, Janet, Patsy and all her friends. Funeral at Vinters Crematorium, Tuesday 3rd May, 2011, at 3.30pm.

VASS

Mabel (May) passed away peacefully on the 12th April 2011. Flowers to the Co-op in Dover, funeral at The Chapel, Gothic Close, Walmer, at 2pm on the 28th April, 2011. Beyond the gate you will find happiness and rest, and there is comfort in the thought that you will remain close to us.

WILSON

Frances Mary Wilson, formerly of Sandgate, Kent, died peacefully on the 11th April 2011. All enquiries to Chittendens, Hythe, Kent.



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TURN TO PAGE 63

PLUS: Rebuilding the system after Kent County Council's 'poor' showing in its duty to protect vulnerable children - **talking point p56** Explore the host of events that will make your family's best Easter - **attractions p65** Vauxhall is laying on the style - **driving p91**



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Searchers find their true place

Group's journey from Sixties pop stardom to a nostalgia act has been eventful, learns **Ed Hill**

THE Searchers came to prominence when Merseybeat hit the charts in the early 1960s. Along with Gerry And The Pacemakers and – most famously – The Beatles, they made British pop a global phenomenon.

Bassist Frank Allen joined the group after meeting them in Hamburg.

He said: "We were all playing at the Star-Club along with bands like the Beatles. You got the chance to play for good money in front of enthusiastic German crowds. I got to share the stage with American idols like Ray Charles, Fats Domino, the Everly Brothers and Little Richard. It was fantastic."

Allen, who was with Cliff Bennett And The Rebel Rousers, got to know The Searchers members and they immediately hit it off.

He said: "They were moderate-living guys in a sea of insanity. Everything was available, including drugs and women. Many went a bit crazy, but Mike, John and Chris were just three nice guys from Liverpool."

Six months later The Beatles turned the music world upside down when they reached No 1. Off the back of Merseybeat's success, The Searchers became international stars after chart hits Sweets For My Sweet and Needles And Pins.

Allen said: "About a year later they needed a new bass-player. I must have seemed a good choice. I was lucky to have met them before because I was from London. They might have

gone for someone from Liverpool."

Allen brought a distinctive sound to the group, playing bass with his fingers and slapping the strings. He said: "No one in Britain was playing like that, but I'd seen Americans play with their fingers. I kept losing plectrums and would start playing with my fingers. The slapping came from keeping time on 'rest' notes."

The Searchers' recording career had its ups and downs, but the band continued to tour.

Allen said: "Touring has always been the biggest thing for us. We could never have relied on record sales to make a living. We seem to instil this amazing loyalty among people. They're not just coming to hear a few songs. Fans feel they know us and we're always happy to meet them."

"Even in our heyday we weren't protected by minders. If fans wanted to meet us, they could. We never knew how to say no. The concert is a potted history of the band. There's a lot of interaction with the audience."

Allen has also made a name for himself writing about his career: "I've always been interested in writing and had done articles for newspapers. Then a publisher asked me to write a book. I was given six months to write Travelling Man – a humorous look at being in the band."

Allen's book was well received, making him the obvious choice to write an in-depth biography. The Searchers And Me took four years to write.

They still have one of the busiest touring programmes of any band, but Allen is realistic about their position.

He said: "We're a nostalgia act and probably not going to have another hit. There's nothing wrong with that. The biggest nostalgia band in the world is The Rolling Stones – they just happen to fill stadiums rather than theatres."

• The Searchers are at The Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury, on Saturday, April 30. Visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.



THE SEARCHERS: Latest tour offers a two-hour potted history of the band with audience interaction

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IT IS almost four years since 17-month-old Peter Connolly – better known as Baby P – died after suffering sustained abuse at the hands of his mother, her boyfriend and their lodger.

The fact social workers failed to spot the cruelty sent shockwaves throughout the UK, and led to questions being asked of every child protection team in the country.

But as council officers in the north London borough of Haringey were forced to leave their jobs over the scandal, a storm cloud was brewing just 60 miles away at County Hall in Maidstone.

Eager to ensure a Baby P-type tragedy was not allowed to happen in Kent, vigilant members of the public bombarded the county council's social services team with information on children whose welfare they were concerned about.

But it became clear last December that staff just could not cope with the increased demand, so much so that Kent County Council now has some 2,700 at-risk children on its books who do not have allocated social workers.

And with Ofsted breathing down its neck after rating the children's social services department as "poor", it's safe to say the authority has a lot of work to do to win back public confidence.

"It's a fact of life that one child can slip through the net of even a well-run organisation," said the troubleshooter brought in to transform Kent's child protection service, Malcolm Newsam.

"The issue for me is to make the service as safe as possible as quickly as possible to mitigate the risk of that happening here. There are more risks in Kent than I would want, and that's why we are rapidly trying to make improvements."

The first indication something was wrong came last August when Ofsted inspectors carried out an unannounced spot-check of Kent's children's social services department.

Their conclusion was that children were at risk of harm due to inadequate and late assessments, which the council admitted was due in part to a shortage of experienced social workers.

But it was not until a follow-up inspection two months later, which resulted in the safeguarding and looked-after children services at KCC being rated as "inadequate", that the full scale of the problem became clear.

Areas of concern raised included the management and supervision of services, low educational attainment of looked-after children, high number of cases not receiving quality assessments, and social workers with high case loads.

KCC leader Paul Carter admitted at the time he was unaware of how poorly run the service was.

But as Mr Newsam explained, it is a risky business to live off of former glories.

"You've always got to be striving to improve because if you take your eye off the ball or relax for one moment, the service can go into a rapid decline," he said.

"The fundamental failings in the system were more entrenched than even the Ofsted inspectors would have led you to believe. We had social workers struggling with the workload, a temperamental computer system, staff vacancies and the loss of key managers, and the rapid decline had begun some years before."

"Everything I do is about making the current circumstances very transparent to the council and the community because then they will be less vulnerable to these issues of decline in the future."

"Councillors got reassurances that everything was OK, and they feel caught out. My job is to make sure that doesn't happen again."

One councillor who can attest to Mr Newsam's comments is Jenny Whittle, who in January was given the newly-created position of cabinet member for specialist children's services.

She admits elected members had no idea of the scale of the problem prior to the Ofsted inspections.

"When Malcolm Newsam came in he gave a



The KCC department charged with looking after the county's most vulnerable children is currently rated as 'poor'. The damning Ofsted report came as shock to councillors, who brought in troubleshooter Malcolm Newsam to put the service back on track. Here, he tells reporter STEVE KNIGHT there are no quick fixes, but he will solve the problems

'MORE RISKS IN KENT THAN I WOULD WANT'

669

The fundamental failings in the system were more entrenched than even Ofsted inspectors would have you believe. Social workers were struggling and the rapid decline had begun years before

MALCOLM NEWSAM

presentation to cabinet members, and to say I was alarmed may be an understatement," she said. "There were nearly 2,700 children that did not have an allocated social worker, and that was something that had never been highlighted."

"We knew there were problems with caseloads and recruitment but much of what came out was a shock."

On average Kent receives about 2,000 child referrals per month, including about 180 a week in Thanet alone.

KCC also has the responsibility of 900 asylum-seeking children as well as about 1,500 looked-after youngsters placed in Kent by other councils.

So what is County Hall doing to ensure it copes better with the increased demand in the weeks and months to come?

Mr Newsam has identified several "pillars of improvement" – including transparency, strong leadership and improved working conditions to attract experienced social workers – which he says are crucial to turning the service around.

Meanwhile, Cllr Whittle has set up a number of

cross-party council committees to ensure members are fully briefed on improvements and so they can have a say in how the department is run.

She has also been visiting social workers on the ground to get a feel for the job. She said: "It's a gruelling and challenging job, and they're making life-changing decisions on a daily basis."

"It's the biggest priority KCC has. I've also been assured finance is not an issue in putting things right."

While it is clear that KCC is taking Ofsted's criticism seriously, it has a long road ahead.

Mr Newsam says it will take at least two to three years to receive a "good" or "outstanding" from Ofsted.

He said: "It's a long-term project, the first phase of which is to take the millstone off social workers. That's why we are bringing in a team of 30 who will move around the county to help remove the backlog, hopefully by the end of August."

"We've got to get out of the hole we've dug and we absolutely will be able to achieve that."



CHILDREN'S SERVICES:

KCC receives around 2,000 child referrals a month, and the service is under great strain – pressures Malcolm Newsam (below) has been brought in to deal with

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'SUICIDE' MISSION: An artist's recreation of the attack led by Second Lieutenant Crowe, in the front

VC winner honoured thanks to his rifle club

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A HERO soldier who practised his marksmanship as part of the Dover Rifle Club in the years leading up to World War One, was honoured at a ceremony in Belgium last Sunday.

John James Crowe was awarded the Victoria Cross in the field by King George V on August 6, 1918, in the closing phase of the war after surviving a "suicide mission" to fight off the enemy.

And now the scene of his desperate action has a plaque to mark it, after a call to remember his actions, led by rifle club secretary Billy Hollis.

During March, 1918, the Germans had launched a series of desperate attacks in an effort to break the will of the Allies – newly reinforced by US troops – using manpower released from the Eastern Front by the collapse of Russia.

The Germans attacked again on the Franco-Belgian border on April 7.

Sixty members of the Second Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment were trapped in the former town hall building which was used as a hospice at the village of Neuve Eglise.

The commanding officer gave permission for Second Lieutenant John Crowe to lead seven men to clear the enemy out of a nearby cowshed.

The officer then took two volunteers and crawled along a gutter, from there they crept up beside a hedge onto a rise and opened fire on the enemy.



HERO: John James Crowe gets his VC from King George V

lining the hedge. They then rushed at two machine guns which were aimed at the building, firing as they ran.

One of 2nd Lt Crowe's companions was killed but the machine gun post was captured and the enemy fled.

The second battalion then left carrying their wounded and withdrew to British lines and 2nd Lt Crowe later received the French Croix de Guerre.

Mr Hollis said: "When I went to the battle scene I was amazed that there was no memorial. What this man did was fantastic. It was practically a suicide mission."

From 1908-11 the Worcesters were stationed at Dover and during that time, as Colour Sergeant, Crowe was a successful and well respected member of the Dover Rifle Club.

Mr Hollis said: "He had learnt at first to shoot as the son of a gamekeeper in Ireland, shooting rabbits and the like.

"When he was based in Do-

ver he joined the club – even though he won many awards for his shooting in the Army

"He regularly posted scores like 100-100 for us, we still have the records."

The plaque was unveiled in Nieuwekerke – the new name of the village – by Doreen Pannett, the granddaughter of John Crowe, accompanied by members of his family.

"The building is now a hostel for young people," said Mr Hollis. "When this whole project started they had no idea of what happened but they have all got involved, along with other Belgians."

"Now the heroic memory of John Crowe – who retired from the military as a captain – is commemorated in Belgium. His VC is held at the regimental museum in Worcester."

Officers from the Mercian Regiment – which incorporates the Worcester, members of the Western Front Association and members of the Ramsgate 1957 and Dover 1900 rifle club – also attended.

Many Belgian dignitaries, representatives of the British Torch of Remembrance, Belgian branch, and the Royal British Legion were at the ceremony.

During the Menin Gate Last Post ceremony in Ypres on the evening of Sunday a wreath was laid by Captain Crowe's family in memory of the soldiers in the Worcestershire Regiment who gave their lives at the battle of Neuve Eglise.

"It was a moving and very proud occasion for all of us," said Mr Hollis.

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RESTAURANTS in Kent not only enjoy the advantage of having access to an abundance of fruit and vegetables from the county's lush, fertile land and a sea teeming with fish and seafood, but many benefit from beautiful locations, too – rural, coastal and even urban.

The Minnis, a former 1930s café probably has one of the best locations in east Kent, sitting as it does on a grass bank, overlooking Minnis Bay near Birchington, halfway between Ramsgate and Whitstable. Diners can make the most of the gorgeous views across the sandy beach and into the horizon over the North Sea, watching spectacular sunsets, either by eating alfresco or inside the restaurant.

Until eight years ago, the Minnis was a predictable seaside café, serving up staple English fare – steaks, scampi, chips. But when Jason Freedman, the current chef patron, took it over, he saw its wider potential in a culinarily deprived area and grabbed the opportunity to serve a more ambitious and creative menu.

Though largely self-taught, Jason's inspiration lies with great names, such as Anton Mosimann, whose cuisine naturelle focuses on the flavour of individual ingredients

The Minnis near Birchington has adopted an ambitious approach to reinventing itself, as Kiki Case discovered

GLORIOUS FOR SHORE:

Thanet's wonderful sunsets provide a stunning backdrop to the isle's increasingly impressive culinary experience

and on presentation. Take his desserts, for example. A couple of years ago, while dreaming up a dessert aimed at women (I forgot to ask him why), he came up with the idea of a deconstructed Pims cocktail. He now has a selection of four such deconstructed cocktails on the menu – Mojito, Strawberry Margarita, Pina Colada, Beach Bum.

The Mojito dessert, for example, is made up of Mojito jelly, lime bavarois, mint sorbet, sugared white rum and lime foam, mint glass and mint pearls, while the Pina Colada is almond cake, with coconut ice-cream, pineapple jelly, chocolate, toasted coconut, coconut cream, white rum and pineapple syrup.

His latest challenge has been to use the art of home-curing, smoking, brining and pickling for the spring and summer menus. Inspired by Stephen Harris, of Michelin-starred The Sportsman in nearby Seasalter, he has been making salt beef, corned beef with dripping, smoked pancetta, home-cured streaky bacon,

sweet-cured air-dried pork loin, pastrami, chorizo, salami and merguez. These are served within dishes, or on platters, with home-pickled vegetables and homemade chutneys.

The Minnis is open all day and has an assortment of menus – à la carte, vegetarian, purely mussels (done 10 different ways, using flavours from around the world), seafood on a platter, including lobster, crab and oysters, and a light lunch bar menu, incorporating lighter dishes such as ploughman's, sandwiches, crab cakes and soup, with heavier dishes, such as battered mackerel burger and chips, coq au vin and spicy meatballs. There's even a section with homemade potted, pickled and cured fish and seafood.

- The restaurant is open every day from 10am-11pm (last orders for food 9pm/8pm on Sundays). Bookings can be made on 01843 841844 or bookings@theminnis.co.uk. Full details can be found on the website – www.theminnis.co.uk.

Farmers' markets

Dartford

DARTFORD farmers' market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then on the third Friday of each month. The market is held in Dartford high street and is open between 10am and 2pm.

Whitfield

WHITFIELD farmers' market is held every Thursday from 9am to 12am in the village hall. It is a very busy market, with 200-300 customers through the door each week. Fresh fish on offer includes scallops, crabs, lobsters and local fish in season.

Rolvenden

ROLVENDEN farmers' market was established in 2000. It is run entirely by volunteers and is non-profit-making, with stall fees kept to a minimum. It takes place every Thursday morning from 10am to midday noon in the new village hall and St Mary's Church.

Stansted

STANSTED farmers' market is open on the first Thursday of every month and was opened as an alternative to the village shop. It sells a range of local produce, all of high quality, and is very popular with visitors from a wide area of the county.

Iwade

IWADE village hall first opened its farmers' market in February 2009. It is open on the first Sunday of the month from 10am to 1pm. Stalls offer fresh seasonal local produce, including organic meats and a wide range of other items.

Canterbury

THE market is held every day except for Monday in the Goods Shed in Station Road and is one of the most popular in east Kent, with fresh local meat and vegetables and other produce always tailored to the seasons and freshly delivered.

■ For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk



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New owners for a deer old friend



THE White Hart is a family-run pub and restaurant that has recently reopened.

Its new landlords are determined to restore this historic pub back to its former glory, so all the food is handled and prepared with care to produce exceptionally fresh and delicious dishes.

Home-baked bread is produced daily, and specialities of the house include pasta and cured hams and excellent chargrilled steaks.

An à la carte menu and Sunday roast is available, and booking is advisable.

In the bar, customers will find an excellent selection of real ales from all over Kent, including selections from the Hopdaemon brewery and Shepherd Neame.

Continental lagers, fine wines and Champagnes are all available, so there is a drink for every occasion.

The decadent desserts are all freshly made, along with a selection of fresh coffees that provide the ideal way to finish any meal.

The Steak Night every Tuesday has proven to be very successful and the popular Sunday roast is served from noon to 6pm.

Locals and those paying a visit from out of town are always assured a warm welcome at this popular eatery.

Head-chef James Pearce specialises in Italian cuisine, and live music takes place on Sunday nights. There is a garden, and a new outside bar is planned for the summer of 2011, along with a dining area allowing customers to eat alfresco.

■ The White Hart, 71 High Street,

Hythe CT21 5AJ

Telephone: 01303 238304

CHEF RECOMMENDS

ACORN INN: Telephone: 01843 841196

STARTER: Sliced peaches with Parma ham served with a Parmesan and pine-nut dressing. MAIN: New mixed grill – lamb chop, steak, pork chop, sausage, bacon, kidney, lamb's liver and chicken served with homemade chips, mushroom and tomato. DESSERT: A selection of homemade deserts.

ROSE AND CROWN: 01227 709265

STARTER: Homemade leek and potato (ever-changing flavour); soup with crusty bread and butter. MAIN: Steak and ale pie – homemade (of course!), fresh vegetables, potatoes and gravy. DESSERT: Fruit crumble with smooth custard or ice-cream.

MAMA FEELGOODS: 01227 830830

STARTER: Mushrooms in a garlic crème with truffle oil and hazelnut. MAIN: Sirlion steakwich ciabatta with red-onion marmalade and rocket. DESSERT: Sticky-toffee pudding.

MARRIOT TUDOR PARK: 01622 632006

STARTER: London smoked salmon, lemon capers and sour cream. MAIN: Braised lamb shoulder – lamb cutlet, fennel and creamy mash potato. DESSERT: Crème brûlée and shortbread biscuits.

TAJ CUISINE: 01634 686648/686636

STARTER: Papadoms with cucumber raita, mango salad, lime salad and onion salad. Chicken puree – well spiced and cooked in a thick, slightly hot sauce served on a thin deep-fried bread. MAIN: King prawn korai – succulent king prawns fried with spices, chopped onions, tomatoes and capsicum, served in a traditional iron korai. With sides of fragrant pilau rice and courgette bhaji and a plain nan to soak up the delicious sauce.

Specials promise an explosion of flavour

Restaurant with chef who cooked for Bangladesh president

THE Taj Cuisine is a spacious and comfortable restaurant with a light and airy ambience.

Its award-winning chef once had the honour of cooking a meal for the president of Bangladesh, and he puts the same care and attention into every dish he prepares for diners in Kent.

Imaginative and exclusive dishes are prepared as freshly as they can possibly be, in Indian and Bangladeshi style, by attentive and courteous staff who ensure that each visit to the eatery is one that customers will long remember.

Chef Abul Monsur is always looking at creating new dishes and specialities, and he prides himself on combining carefully-selected spices to create an explosion of flavour for the taste buds.

Abul was 15 when he started cooking, and he worked for his uncle in London before coming to Kent and gaining more experience to perfect his art.

He has had his own restaurant for the last 12 years and won many awards, bringing the tastes of the exotic East to diners who want to



experience the full flavours and spices that make Asian food so distinctive.

Chef's delicacy dishes include chingri dish, exquisite hot and spicy king prawns and fish massala – freshwater Bengal ayer fish with a touch of onion, garlic, cumin and cassia.

The restaurant is open Monday to Sunday from noon to 2.30pm and 6pm to 11.30pm. On Fridays it is open evenings only, from 6pm-11.30pm.

• **Taj Cuisine,**
Walderslade Village,
Chatham ME5 9UD
Telephone: 01634 686648

Fresh produce key ingredient to vegetarian options at The Hutch

FOLLOWING its opening on October 15, 2010, The Hutch vegetarian restaurant in Palace Street on The Kings Mile in Canterbury continues to provide first-class and delicious locally-sourced food.

During that time, owner Andrew Hutchinson has estimated that more than 50 per cent of his customers are not in fact vegetarian – he puts that surprising statistic down to changing dining habits and the quality and taste of the food.

"Our philosophy is to ensure that the food we serve is as well prepared and presented as we can possibly make it. Freshness is the key and we source as much as we can locally, so there is as short a time as possible between harvesting and the plate," he said.

"We also believe that when people choose to eat meat-free, then those diners should not feel deprived, so when they eat at The Hutch we try to make sure that we supply all the facilities expected of a city-centre restaurant.

"Our vegetarian Sunday roast has proved very popular, and we have hosted several birthday parties for



different-sized groups.

"During the run-up to Christmas we supplied a four-course vegetarian alternative dinner that was well received, and in January we held a Burns Night celebration, complete with vegetarian haggis.

"Shortly afterwards, on Valentine's night, we were able to provide a sumptuous five-course romantic meal with music provided by local soprano Laura Kimpton."

The Hutch is open from Tuesday to Sunday for lunch and Tuesday to Saturday for dinner.

As a café bistro by day, there are

light bites available, along with some more substantial lunchtime dishes.

At night the atmosphere changes to a more refined dining experience, with a good selection on each of the three courses of the à la carte menu, including vegan and gluten-free options on every course.

Whenever you visit The Hutch, be sure to check out the specials board for a changing array of dishes that have inspired the chef on that day.

■ **The Hutch, 13 Palace Street,**
Canterbury CT1 2DZ
Telephone: 01227 766700
www.thehutchcanterbury.co.uk

RESTAURANT Review



Albion joins Broad choice

THERE'S nothing like a bit of healthy competition and for the vast array of restaurants in Broadstairs that's exactly what they're used to. Now there's another to add to the mix.

The Dining Room, in the refurbished Royal Albion Hotel, offers elegant English food with a touch of quirkiness.

Walking through to the restaurant you are drawn to spectacular views of the sea, which in the summer can be enjoyed from a terraced garden.

Although the décor seemed almost dated in comparison with its modern competitors, it fitted perfectly and, combined with the attentive waitstaff, made for a lovely ambience.

Two coffee cups of roasted pumpkin soup, bread and roasted pumpkin seeds was a nice touch.

For starters, my guest opted for the tian of smoked salmon, crab and brown shrimp (£4.95) and I chose crispy duck with mango and plum glaze on cucumber noodles (£5.95). Both were truly excellent.

My main was fillet of local cod, which came in an orange and sage butter with sautéed new potatoes (£13.95), and it was a decision well made.

The cod, again fresh, mixed with the citrus of the orange and was delicious and filling.

My companion went for the pork medallions with roast butternut squash and ginger with a wild mushroom and pork jus (£13.95). Lovely, she said, although more ginger would have been even lovelier.

We shared a cheese platter for dessert (£6.95). It was clear the kitchen had given us cheese for two, but the bill showed they had charged for just one, making me like this place even more.

And for a three-course meal with coffee and a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc, the total bill of £66.85 did not leave too big a dent in my purse.

• For information, go to www.albionbroadstairs.co.uk
■ **The Albion**
6-12 Albion Street,
Broadstairs CT10 1AN
Telephone: 01843 868071
www.albionbroadstairs.co.uk

Marijke Cox

Holidays offered by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: info@gnholidays.com • www.gnholidays.com



Lake Bled, Slovenia, Croatia & Venice

Escorted Holiday by Rail
Afternoon departure from London

15 days
Quote SV9-KOS
£1499pp

Departs September 28, 2011

Experience the delights of the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana, the stunning beauty of Lake Bled, the Croatian seaside town of Rovinj, magnificent Venice & more. We travel on the swift Eurostar, London to Paris, then overnight train to Venice in a private cabin.

INCLUDED:

• Champagne check-in

- Escorted throughout
- Return Eurostar to Paris with luggage handling
- Paris-Venice: 1 night each way in a 2-berth cabin on overnight train with light breakfast
- 5 nights half board at a 3-star hotel in Bled, Slovenia
- 7 nights half board at a 4-star hotel on the Slovenian coast
- Excursions
- All transfers abroad



Corinth Canal, Greek Islands & Istanbul

Escorted Rail-Cruise
Afternoon departure from London

12 days
Quote CG-KOS
£1149pp

Departs: May 5, June 24, Sept 12 & Oct 2, 2011

CRUISE PORTS OF CALL:
• Embark France - Marseilles
• Italy - Genoa
• Greece - Katakolon,

Santorini, Mykonos, Piraeus (Athens) & Corinth Canal

- Turkey - Istanbul
- Sicily - Messina
- Disembark Marseilles
- Escorted throughout
- Afternoon departure on Eurostar to Paris or Lille
- 1 night hotel B&B in Paris or Lille
- TGV rail travel to Marseilles
- 10-night Full-Board cruise on the Louis Coral
- Return rail travel to London
- All transfers abroad

Greece, Italy & Albania

Escorted Rail-Cruise
Afternoon departure from London

10 days

Quote GS10-KOS
£999pp

Departs: October 7, 2011

CRUISE PORTS OF CALL:

- Embark France - Marseilles
- Sicily - Messina
- Albania - Saranda

- Greece - Corfu, Corinthos & Katakolon
- Italy - Genoa
- Disembark in Marseilles

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Champagne Check-in
- Daytime rail travel: London-Marseille-London
- Overnight stay in Lille or Paris outbound
- 8 night Full Board cruise on the Orient Queen
- All transfers abroad

OPTIONAL:

Luggage handling available



Dublin & South West Ireland

By coach from London

7 days half board

Quote KD10-KOS

£449pp

Departs October 2, 2011

Join us for a touring holiday to Ireland's Dingle Peninsula and Dublin. We stay in Dublin for 2 nights and Tralee for 4 nights and travel by luxury coach from London Victoria.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Luxury coach travel
- All touring & excursions
- Return ferry Holyhead to Dublin
- 2 nights in Dublin & 4 nights in Tralee
- 6 breakfasts & 6 dinners



Isle of Wight Christmas Party

Warner Norton Grange Resort, Isle of Wight - Over 40s only

Self drive, 3 nights, drinks inclusive

Quote NX11-KOS

£209pp

£10pp DEPOSIT

Friday, November 25 to 28, 2011

Join us for an early Christmas party on the Isle of Wight. We're bringing our usual

brand of fun and games to Norton Grange with plenty of festive entertainment and food on the menu. We've retained the popular Free Drinks so the party is bound to go with a swing.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- FREE drinks from 3.30pm to 11pm Friday, 12noon to 11pm Saturday & Sunday
- Dinners & Breakfasts
- Live variety entertainment
- En-suite chalet with TV, tea/coffee tray - upgrades available
- Leisure facilities: Indoor pool & sauna
- Return Car Ferry



Riviera of Flowers, Monaco, Portofino & Côte D'Azur

Escorted Holiday by Rail
Afternoon departure from London

8 days semi all inclusive
Quote DM-KOS
from £799pp

Departs: June 17, 2011 - £799pp
July 15 & September 17, 2011 - £849pp

ITINERARY/INCLUDED:

- Champagne Check-in
- Escorted throughout
- Eurostar to Lille or Paris
- 1 night hotel B&B in Lille or Paris
- TGV rail travel to Nice
- Excursions to Lucca, Pisa, Florence, Portovenere & San Gimignano
- 7 nights in Marina di Pietrasanta, Italy
- 7 buffet breakfasts & 7 dinners with free wine & water PLUS free tea/coffee daily PLUS nightly Free Bar 6pm to 10pm
- Overnight train home from Florence to Paris, in 2-berth cabin, then Eurostar to London
- All transfers abroad



Undertake your own pilgrim's route on this marvellous 50-mile (80km) circular ride using Regional Routes 16 and 17, linking Dover, Canterbury and Folkestone



LOCATION: Dover CT16 1QR or Canterbury CT1 1PE

TOTAL DISTANCE: 50 miles (80km) – allow nine hours, 40 minutes

OS EXPLORER MAPS: 150 and 138

This idyllic ride takes you along leafy lanes and bridleways amid rolling hills, woodland, country villages and hamlets, ideal for a cycle holiday or a mixture of great day rides.

It is advisable to start the journey anti-clockwise via Route 16, as the climb out of Dover is short and steep compared with the longer, harder climb out of Folkestone.

As you leave, take a moment to enjoy the stunning views of Dover Castle perched spectacularly above the White Cliffs. The castle was founded in the 12th century and has been described as the Key to England due to its defensive significance throughout history.

For a drink and something to eat to fortify you for the ride ahead, the Duke of York does well-priced meals and has a good range of beers and soft drinks, as well as hot drinks.

The route meanders through fine east Kent countryside, taking in historic villages such as Chillenden with its award-winning pub The Griffin's Head, famous for its oak beams and timbers, to Patrixbourne, where the North Downs Way leads to Canterbury.

The cathedral city has a wealth of history and culture to uncover. If you have time, it's a great idea to spend some here – some sights are not to be missed. The skyline is dominated by the stunning cathedral, the oldest in England.

The ancient ruins of St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church form Canterbury's World Heritage Site, while other ruins such as the castle are reminders of the city's rich history. Although Canterbury is a place steeped in tradition, it is also a modern and vibrant city.

Luxury hotels, fine restaurants, lively nightclubs and welcoming pubs combine to give a complete experience.

Popular venues include the Abode Hotel, which is part of a group featuring the culinary creations of award-winning chef Michael Caines.

The city has a large number of historic pubs and modern bars to suit all tastes and the floral displays are at their best at this time of year, especially along the riverbank.

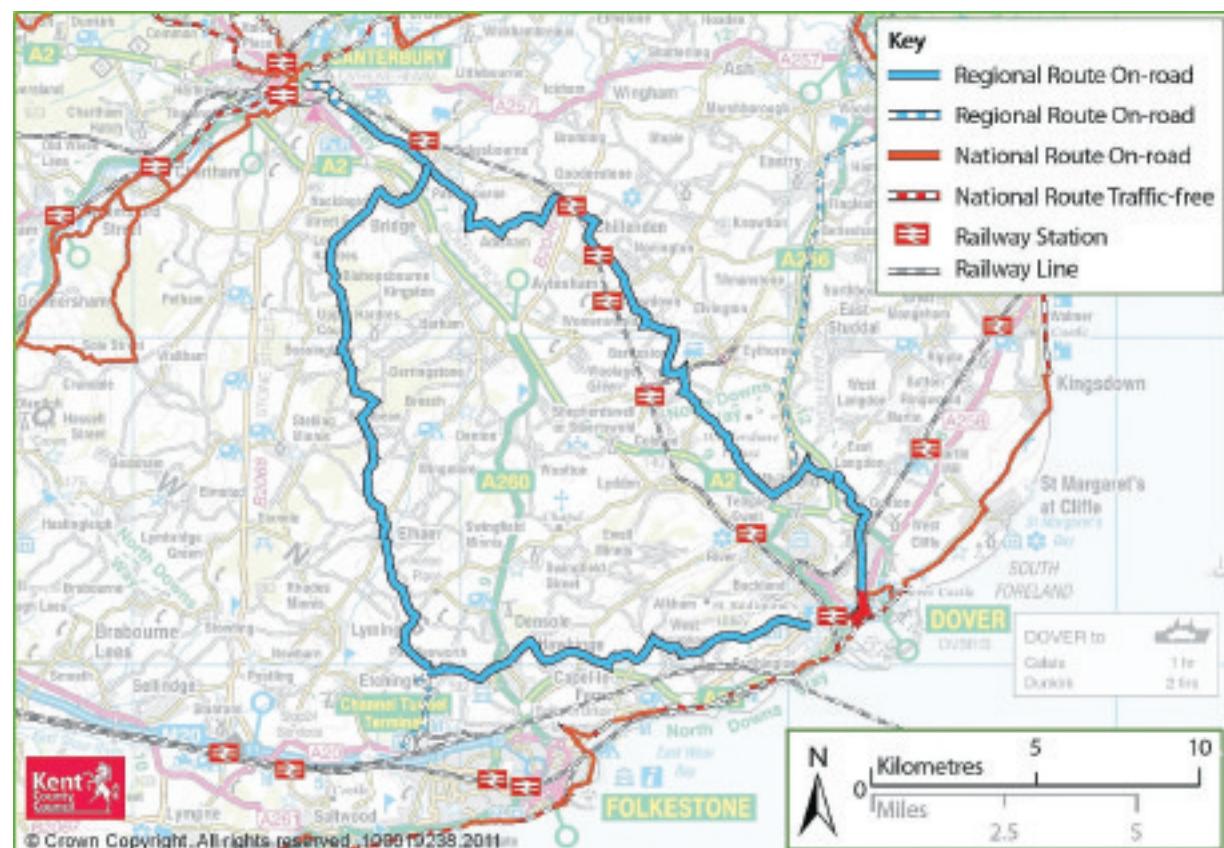
The return leg of your journey from Canterbury branches off route 16. You will pick up scenic Route 17 through the village of Bridge and follow quiet valley lanes to Elham.

Here you can visit Park Gate Down nature reserve, a grassland site with a superb range of orchids and other flora.

Good en-route signage allows you to join the journey at any point.

One-way day riders can let the train take the strain on the return leg thanks to convenient stations at Folkestone, Dover and Canterbury.

For more information on exploring the Kent countryside, visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent.



SIGHTS TO SEE:

SEE: Cycle route from White Cliffs country takes you over the North Downs, through pretty villages to the historic cathedral city of Canterbury





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| Nr Ramsgate Kent | CT2 5AR
www.prestonparks.com

St George's/Easter 4 day Beer Festival

The Unicorn Bekesbourne Hill, Bekesbourne, Canterbury Kent CT4 5ED
(200 yards from Bekesbourne station - one stop from Canterbury east)

T: 01227 830210 www.pubunicorn.com

3rd Year! Bigger and better than ever

More beers and ciders, including guest Ales from outside of the county. Entire
beer garden under cover with additional outside children's and smoking area.

Live music, BBQ and Hog Roast

Friday 22nd April - 12 noon - 11pm

- 12 Noon - Beer Tent Open and BBQ
- 1pm - 'Chimney Boys' (dark folk and cabaret music)
- 4pm - 'Fleeting Things' (local self-written experimental pop)
- 8pm - 'Where's Brian' (great all round function band) Come and party!

Saturday 23rd April - 12 noon - 11pm

- 12 Noon - Beer Tent Open and BBQ
- 12.30pm - 'Kent Country Folk' (Kent folk dancers)
- 1.30pm - 'Betteshanger Brass Band' (30 piece traditional colliery band)
- 4pm - 'Pint Size Henry V' (performed by The Canterbury Players)
- 7pm - Barn Dance with 'Abbey Capers' Barn Dance Band'

This will be interwoven with performances by 'Oysters Morris' and a 'Mummers Play'

Sunday 24th April - 12 Noon - 11pm

- 12 Noon - Beer Tent Open and BBQ and Children's entertainment (stilt walking, face painting, etc.) throughout the afternoon including an Easter Egg Hunt
- 1pm - 'Stormy Monday' (soul/blues band)
- 4pm - 'Jiggle it all' Set programme (children's entertainment - fire eating, juggling & magic)
- 5pm - 'Arrival of St George on horseback'
- 5.30pm - 'Old Lone Gin Band' (English folk band)
- 8pm - Open Mic - hosted by 'C.J.' All performers (singers, musicians, comedians, etc.) wishing to participate to contact Martin at the Unicorn prior to the week-end.

Monday 25th April - 12 noon - 7pm

- 12 Noon - Beer Tent Open
- 1pm - Hog Roast
- 1pm - '5 Star Jazz Swing' (jazz/swing band)

Bar and Restaurant open as usual. Why not arrive by train!!
(some camping available in village - call for details.)

Karting for ages 4-16

- Karting parties
- Turn up 'n' drive

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available dates or call
for more information.

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Dickens World

Open daily Tuesday - Friday 10am - 4.30pm (Last admission 3pm)
Saturday & Sunday 10am - 5.30pm (Last admission 4pm)

Dickens World, our exciting indoor visitor complex based around the life, books and times of Charles Dickens. We take you on a fascinating journey to Dickens' World as you step back into authentically themed Dickensian England.

Events at Dickens World

Easter Events

Royal Wedding Celebrations

Wedding Dress Exhibition - 29th April - 15th May (included in the Dickens World admission price)

The Royal Wedding Indoor Street Party - 30th April with live music from the Vintage Corporation, pre-band live entertainment, Hog Roast, After party disco until late - £15 per person

Easter Craft Fayre - 22nd & 23rd April 10am - 5.30pm Admission to the fayre only is free of charge

Living History of
the River Medway

Hoi Pollo Ball
4th June 7.30pm

Join us aboard a restored 60ft Thames Barge and enjoy an afternoon on the river, boarding from the Marina at Dickens World.
£23 Adult - £18 Child

Price includes Dickens World Admission

Hosted by Jan Bird & David Hawes. Dance to the music of the Hot Rats with a caller with additional entertainment for your delectation.
Tickets £17

Tickets include a sausage and mash supper



Leviathan Way,
Chatham Maritime,
Kent ME4 4LL

(for sat nav use Leviathan Way)

For all information and
online bookings call

01634 890 421

or visit

www.dickensworld.co.uk

BOOKING FOR 2011

Thanet Gang Show 2011
21st, 23rd & 25th April

£7.50/£8.50

Filled with songs, dance and sketches, the Gang Show gives entirely different view of Scouting and Guiding. No camp fires, no tents and no "Ging Gang Goolie", just young people showing their talent on stage.

SMOKE & MIRRORS

Sat 28th & Sun 29th May 7.30 pm

£12

A new educational play created by local participants which lets audiences look at the heritage site of the beautiful Theatre Royal Margate building in an entirely new light.

Dracula

Wed 22nd & Thurs 23rd June 7.30 pm

£6

In a modern, comedix, musical twist on a classic, see the story of Jonathan, his girlfriend Mina and their friends unfold as they become entangled in the macabre life of Vladamir Dracula.

www.theatreroyalMargate.com

0845 130 1786/0122 787787

SELLINGE STEAM SPECIAL

Spring Bank Holiday
Sat 28, Sun 29 & Mon 30 May 2011
10am to 5pm each day

For further details please send SAE to
Snowdrop Swan Lane, Sellinge Ashford, Kent TN25 6EB
email: jennyhollingsbee@fsmail.net

Tel: 01303 812293 / 813000 Mobile: 07887918458
(junction 10/11 M20 Swan Lane just off A20 Sellinge)

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Adults £7 Concessions £6
Children £3

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- Working Demonstrations, Models, Static Displays & Side Shows, Crafts, Models & Bygones, Commercial Vehicles, Tractors, Stationary Engines, Vintage Cars & Motorcycles, Military Vehicles
- FREE CAR PARKING PLUS Licensed Bar
- Tractors entertain
- Arena entertainment AND ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR
- 4 x 4 Driving Course

Programme subject to change

Go-karting Easter racing family offers

Buckmore Park, Chatham
 01634 201562 or
www.buckmore.co.uk
 Open 8am to 9pm

FOLLOW in the footsteps of Jensen Button and Lewis Hamilton with a fast and furious spin around Buckmore Park. Chatham's award-winning international kart circuit is celebrating its 49-year anniversary with Easter holiday, turn up 'n' drive sessions for ages four to 16 on selected dates. Children aged four to seven can try 15-minute sessions on 5mph electric karts on the 120-metre mini GP circuit. Those aged between eight and 11 can experience the 20mph petrol karts on the longer 300m club circuit. The 12- to 16-year-olds can try the 40mph petrol karts on the 600-m national circuit. Prices start at £15 per session. Buckmore Park is open every day.



Port Lympne New animal attractions

Port Lympne, near Hythe
 0844 8424647 or
www.aspinalfoundation.org
 Open 9.30am to 6pm

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park has launched its much anticipated new experience. The park commenced a million-pound redevelopment scheme at the end of 2010 which is now complete and

will see the safari ride become integral to the experience. Visitors are transported between four key on-foot zones where they can discover conservation first-hand with key exhibits and interactive educational displays. The park has also launched three new play areas and two new restaurants featuring large outdoor verandas with stunning views. Wildlife-lovers can also take advantage of the Passport scheme which means that customers can come back for a year from their first visit at no extra cost. Two new walkways

through the European bison field and a rhino paddock mean that guests can explore previously out-of-bounds territory. There is also a pioneering new enclosure for the park's Pallas's cats, allowing the public unimpeded views. Managing director Bob O'Connor said: "We are hoping that this experience will put Port Lympne on the map as the must-see conservation attraction in the UK. We are dedicated to protecting and breeding some of the rarest species on the planet, so keep your eyes open for new arrivals on your visits."



Motor racing British Superbikes

Brands Hatch, Fawkham
 Monday, April 25
 0843 453 9000 or
www.motorsportvision.co.uk/

START your engines because this Easter weekend sees the return of the British Superbike Championship to Brands Hatch race circuit. The eagerly-anticipated opening round will feature 38 riders from eight different nations battling it out on the Kent track for the first time this season. Double BSB champion Shane 'Shakey' Byrne and Tommy Hill will be preparing to give their home crowd something to celebrate for the HM Plant Honda and Swan Yamaha teams respectively. Both riders have their sights set on victory, so expect a turf war between the two Kent riders, while Maidstone's Scott Smart will be vying for glory in the EVO class on his BSB return for the Moto Rapido Ducati team.

There will be 21 races during the course of the weekend, with the big race day falling on Easter Monday. Race day will also feature the UK's first female stunt rider Chesca Miles, who has been hitting the headlines with her mix of motorcycle stunt-riding, modelling and singing career.



The Hop Farm Festival vibe at county fair

Hop Farm, Paddock Wood
 01622 872068 or
www.thehopfarm.co.uk
 Ticket prices and deals vary

THE Hop Farm has released details of its exciting plans for the sixth annual Kent County Fair, which will be held within its 500-acre site during the bank-holiday weekend. The fair attracts more than 12,000 visitors each year to celebrate uniquely Kentish activities, modelling and singing career.

Dickens World Characters of the circus

Dickens World, Chatham
 01634 890421 or
www.dickensworld.co.uk
 Easter Monday, April 25

VISITORS to Dickens World will have the chance to see the sights and sounds of the Victorian circus on Easter Monday. The Circus of Light will be presenting their Time Traveller's Guide to the 1850s. The show sees some of Dickens's favourite characters in a family friendly circus created specially for the themed attraction. See Oliver actually twist to form the most amazing contortionist duo in London and witness the Artful Dodger as he juggles knives, handkerchiefs and other ill-gotten gains. The circus includes fire, magic and a ringmaster to guide visitors on a journey meeting the most amazing characters from the Victorian age. Welcome to Charles Dickens and his wonderful world!

few added twists as the farm introduces new entertainment for visitors of all ages. The new 'village fete' theme offers a tug of war, coconut shy and other games. Thrilling displays by Moto Stunts International will have the crowds in awe as they perform motorcycle and quad trick riding, high-speed cross-over routines, car crashes and rollovers. Performances from folk bands will create a buzzing atmosphere throughout each day. As day turns to night, the entertainment continues for families taking advantage of the camping experience, with live music and a disco. The main arena will play host to the Xtreme Falconry show.

kentish to the core

Ever since the Restaurant at Elvey Farm opened its doors to its first diners in 2007, it has gained an enviable reputation for a warm welcome and excellent food & wines served in stylish but relaxed surroundings in the heart of the Kent countryside.

Enjoy a glass of chilled sparkling wine or local cider from Biddenden Vineyards in the cosy bar on arrival while you peruse the extensive menu which celebrates our local Kent produce. Head chef Tony Lemaitre specialises in taking traditional dishes and giving them a modern twist, so you're sure to find something new and different when you dine at Elvey Farm.



Elvey Farm also boasts nine individually designed guest rooms in its converted barn, stable block and oast house, should you decide to stop for the night after a sumptuous dinner. It really is the perfect destination to sample modern Kentish cuisine at its best.

ELVEY FARM
Elvey Lane
Pluckley TN27 0SU
01233 840442
www.elveyfarm.co.uk

Finchcocks Musical Museum



Magnificent Georgian manor house in beautiful gardens, home to Richard Burnett's celebrated collection of over 100 historical musical instruments - 40 in full playing order. Entertaining and informal demonstration-recitals on Open Days/ group visits.

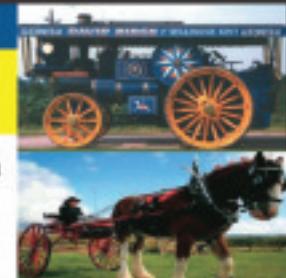
Finchcocks is a musical centre of international repute, that makes a wonderful day out for all the family.

Many events including: Midsummer Music Series, September Festival, Christmas Concert and craft fairs.

Refreshments in the cellar restaurant.

Open Sundays - April to end September including Bank Holiday Mondays. In addition, Weds and Thurs in August.

Groups by appointment: Mid March to Christmas on most days.



SELLINDGE STEAM SPECIAL

Spring Bank Holiday
Sat 28, Sun 29 & Mon 30 May 2011
10am to 5pm each day

For further details please send SAE to
Snowdrop Swan Lane, Sellindge Ashford, Kent TN25 6EB
email: jennyhollingsbee@fsmail.net
Tel: 01303 812293 / 813000 Mobile: 07887918458
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Adults £7 Concessions £6
Children £3

- See the Giants of Steam in action
- Working Demonstrations, Models, Static Displays & Side Shows, Crafts, Models & Bygones, Commercial Vehicles, Tractors, Stationary Engines, Vintage Cars & Motorcycles, Military Vehicles
- FREE CAR PARKING PLUS Licensed Bar
- Tractors entertain
- Arena entertainment AND ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR
- 4 x 4 Driving Course

Programme subject to change

LEEDS & CASTLE
KENT, ENGLAND

CELEBRATE SUMMER IN STYLE LEEDS CASTLE OPEN AIR CLASSICAL CONCERT

Saturday 16th July 2011

*The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
conducted by John Rigby &
narrated by Robert Powell*

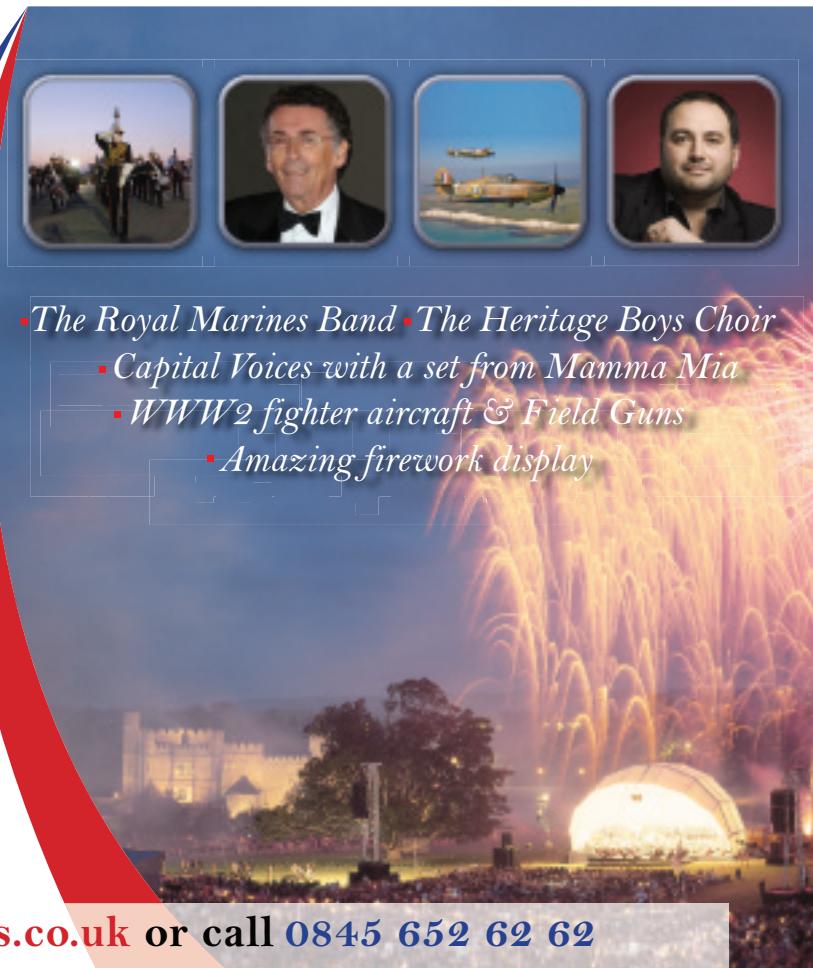


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KENTON SUNDAY

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Maypole Dancing days enliven spring

Hever Castle

Saturday, April 30-Monday, May 2
 Tel. 01732 865224

A BRITISH spring day could not be celebrated any better than with traditional Maypole dancing in the spectacular grounds of Hever Castle. Visitors to the former home of Queen Anne Boleyn can enjoy customary folk and Tudor dancing, against the glorious backdrop of the castle gardens. Families can also visit Kit and Kate's tent, where talented musicians will be on hand to talk about instruments of the period and demonstrate how each one is played. Visitors can then step into the award-winning gardens. Gardens open at 10.30am; castle opens at midday. Admission prices: adults £14; seniors £12; children £8. For further information, visit www.hevercastle.co.uk



Dance Abba's music sets the tone

World Record Dance

Broadstairs Big Weekend
 Friday to Sunday,
 May 20-22

AS part of the first Big Broadstairs Weekend, a series of Abba-themed events will have dancing kings and queens in raptures. On Friday, May 20, the Abalicious tribute

band will be performing at the Pavilion, while the following day there will be a public screening of *Mamma Mia!* on the beach and the events will culminate on Sunday with a charity Guinness World Record attempt to get 1,000 Dancing Queens performing a choreographed routine on the promenade. Participants can learn the moves via YouTube. It could be the biggest remote dance class ever. The piece has been created by choreographer Orit Sutton of Let's All Dance. The mass dance is community-led and will involve dancers of

all ages and sexes, from local schools, businesses and even the local rugby club. The aim is to raise money for the Royal Marsden Cancer Campaign and Margate hospital's Special Care Baby Unit. Each participant is asked to raise £25. Organiser Fiona Crawford said: "This weekend is all about showcasing our beautiful town to the rest of Kent and beyond. It is also a great opportunity to raise money for charity." To find out more about participating in the dance, visit www.dancingqueens.org.



Trains Great Western line-up

Kent & East Sussex Railway Tenterden

April 30-May 2
 Tel: 01580 765155

THE Annual Great Gala Weekend at the Kent and East Sussex Railway, which runs from Saturday, April 30, until Monday, May 2, will have a distinctly Great Western feel this year as the line plays host to one of the most outstanding locomotives built for the famous GWR. Dating from 1903 and built at the celebrated Swindon Locomotive Works, locomotive

3440 'City of Truro' is believed to be the first steam locomotive ever to reach a speed of 100mph. This feat was achieved when the engine was at the head of the important Ocean Mails express from Plymouth to London in 1904. This is the first time City of Truro has visited the K&ESR.

The train is now part of the revered collection based at the National Railway Museum at York. It will be in action alongside the line's resident steam and diesel locomotives. Passenger trains will run along the 10.5 miles of restored line from Tenterden Town station to Northiam and Bodiam throughout the event, with a regular service from 10.30am until 4.30pm on all three days plus early-bird specials around 9.30am.



Craft show Gardening to highlight

Weald of Kent

Penhurst Place and Gardens
 Saturday and Sunday,
 April 30-May 1

THE WEALD of Kent Craft Show has announced a special guest for its opening-day visitors. Gardening expert, Daily Telegraph columnist and author Helen Yemm will offer advice to visitors as well as signing copies of her two new books, *RHS Grow Your Own Flowers and Thorny Problems*. The show, set in the scenic Penshurst Place and Gardens, will also showcase some of the finest handmade crafts to spruce up your home and garden. There will be delicious food and drink, live music, features, displays and a stunning show garden. Helen Yemm, who lives near Tunbridge Wells, is well known for her weekly *Thorny Problems* column in the Saturday Telegraph's Gardening supplement. She developed her passion in her first garden and soon found fame presenting two TV series, *Gardening From Scratch* on BBC Two and *Gardening Week*, a BBC daytime series. The show is open from 9.30am to 5.30pm. Buy tickets online at www.ichf.co.uk.



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Dance and light show Blink

Margate seafront
Saturday, August 27
www.blinkmargate.com

WORLD-RENNED choreographer Wayne McGregor is working on a spectacular dance and pyrotechnic event to be staged on Margate seafront. Blink involves McGregor's Random Dance Company; Pan Optikum, who specialise in epic outdoor performances; and the sound artist Scanner to bring the waterfront alive with sound movement and light. The project is also looking for local people to get involved as part of the dance team. McGregor said: "Margate has an intriguing and enduring appeal and I was captivated by the opportunity to create something so site-specific outdoors."

• To get involved, visit www.blinkmargate.org



Music Dervish bring Ireland sound

**Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury**
Saturday, May 7, 7.45pm
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

COUNTY Sligo's finest export, Dervish, have now been at the forefront of Irish traditional music for two decades. In that time they have taken their music worldwide, appearing everywhere from the Great Wall of China to Brazil's Rio Festival in front of an audience of 250,000. On stage, the band's live shows are characterised by their carefully-crafted arrangements as they subtly explore the endless rhythms and complexities that go to make great Irish music. Cathy Jordan is regarded by many as the most distinctive voice and finest front-woman in Irish music. She is joined by musicians playing bouzouki, mandola, flute, fiddle, bodhran and accordion to ensure that there is plenty of firepower to build an irresistible energy and capture the flavours of the Irish tradition. In Dervish, all the elements that make great Celtic music come together for a musical treat. Tickets £15, Encore! members £13. Call 01227 769075 or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.

Theatre The Balloon Gardener

**Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury**
Saturday, May 7, 2pm
Tel: 01227 769075

AN unusual garden is being created in a new show by contemporary clown Danny Schlesinger. His tale The Balloon Gardener is coming to Canterbury next month.

Danny, a wild-balloon tamer, has run out of balloons and must grow his own. The tamer turns gardener, and seeds of hilarity are sown as he attempts to cultivate bold, colourful, latex shapes in pots. Schlesinger is an award-winning performer who works in theatre, circus, cabaret, television and film. He has worked with The Royal Opera, The Natural Theatre Company, Circus Sensible and Dynamic New Animation. His film and TV credits include Happiness (BBC2), Jack Dee's Sunday Service (CH4) and Sniffer – a Norwegian

short film that has won many awards, including the best short film at Cannes 2006. The Balloon Gardener is a bigger-hearted show with even bigger balloons and is entertaining for children of all ages.

• The Balloon Gardener is being performed at the Gulbenkian Theatre on Saturday, May 7, at 2pm. Call the booking office on 01227 769075 or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk. Tickets £8, Encore! members £7. Family And Friends ticket £35 for five people. The show is suitable for children aged four and over.



Comedy Laugh with this top trio

**Ramada Hotel,
Dover**
Thursday, April 28
Tel: 01304 872843

THREE top comedy acts will be appearing at the Ramada Hotel in Dover.

John Ryan is an Edinburgh Festival Highlight Award-winner. Rhodri Rhys was a chartered surveyor before turning his hand to comedy. From 1990 to 2002 he lived in Prague, starting performing after meeting visiting comics. The headline act is Martin Beaumont. He is a true old-school stand-up and master



of the one-liner and has made many TV appearances. He won the Time Out Critics' Choice for his show Sunspots.

• Doors open 7pm. Show time 9pm-over 18s only. Tickets £12.95 for comedy only; £20.95 comedy and two-course meal.



Dance Flames Of Desire

**Assembly Hall,
Tunbridge Wells**
Sunday, May 1, 7.30pm
Tel: 01892 530613

WITH the success of TV shows like Strictly Come Dancing, Latin dance is becoming increasingly popular in the UK. Now one of the world's top tango companies is coming to Tunbridge Wells. Tango Fire has just finished

sell-out seasons in New York, Barcelona, Hamburg and Cape Town. The Argentinian company is now returning to the UK with new show Flames Of Desire.

The dancers show some of the speediest footwork and tightest twirling in the business.

Flames Of Desire features 10 sensational dancers including three world tango champions and one of Argentina's finest young singers.

• Tickets to see Flames Of Desire are priced at £23 and £25. Visit [www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk) for further details.

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ACADEMIC man sought by female, recent graduate, into art, history, psychology, likes usual activities as well as London art galleries and walks. Brimley. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365501

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. Kent. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453

SUSIE 57ins, blonde, seeks educated attractive male for loving relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365476

34YR old blonde new to the area, seeking younger guy for fun times maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365079

FUN loving curvy red head 32yrs, loves good food/wine, WLTM male who appreciates a real woman and knows what he likes. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365077

30YR old Brunette fit, feminine, attractive, free, single and looking for love with similar fun loving guy. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365075

36YR old bored housewife looking for mutual companionship with discreet understanding man stuck in a similar rut. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364331

LORNA 66, nurse, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364237

FEMALE 64, brown/grey hair, medium build, honest, caring, loves, seeks similar in male, 30-60 for friendship/relationship. Medway. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364253

LOOKING for my soul mate, 57, lonely, caring, affectionate, likes a drink in good company, 5ft 1ins, hazel eyes, seeks someone to share life with. Is that you? Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385172

BARBARA 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701

BEAUTIFUL slim, female, 22, seeks older, distinguished gent, 65 plus for friendship/relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364037

MALE Guardian reader? Art, vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin. seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360655

GLASS half full N/S mid 50's woman, seeks other half. Are you a professional man, 50-60 who likes the finer things in life? Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363665

BEAUTIFUL slim female, 20, seeks older, solvent gent 75 plus for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363985

LORRAINE seeks trustworthy, white male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363793

DONNA 35, single mum of 3, seeks male with GSOH, 35-40. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385064

LADY slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365033

64YR old female, 5ft 2ins, GSOH, likes golf, seeks male with GSOH for friend, days out, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581

48YR old female, average build, good looking, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363321

WARM well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477

BETH young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy, size 14, N/S, many interests, honest, caring, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 342429

SEALLED with a kiss, 37yrs old single mom, blonde hair blue eyes, curly hair, sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543

ISABELLE lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

GORGEOUS lonely lass, 45, looking for some romantic liaisons with younger male, looks important, no chancers. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364415

MARY 60, good for age, GSOH, likes cooking, meals out, looking for some fun company, possible romance. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364547

TINKERBELL seeks Peter Pan, 19m, 5ft 5ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356721

ATTRACTIVE warm, blonde female, 49, seeks honest, generous male, 50 plus who will care of me. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364277

FEMALE seeks kind, caring white male, 42-50, tidy and clean for friend, maybe. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363197

BEAUTIFUL slim Malaysian female, 24, seeks refined, solvent gent to go and pamper for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363315

ELIZABETH caring, honest, reliable, likes most things, seeks older gent, late 70s for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359589

SLIM attractive, elegant female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571

SALLY independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

FEMALE 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207

PATRICIA outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215

HONEST caring, genuine female, 44, GSOH, likes meals out, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361243

FEMALE 25, professional, likes nights out, socialising, seeks male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360961

A rare diamond, bright, sparkly and good quality, let me put the sparkle back into your life. Wanted professional, attractive male, 38-56, medium build, 5ft 9ins. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361005

ANNE 5ft, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360444

CLARE 5ft 10ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, likes most things, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381033

ATTRACTIVE caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358937

CUDDLY curly size 14 plus female looking for gent, 59-65 for daytime adult fun. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380918

BEDFORDSHIRE female, 39, HIV positive, likes cinema, music, travel, nights in, wine bars, seeks decent, white, professional male, under 45. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358579

LONELY female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, history, seeks honest, first, genuine male for friendship initially. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356393

POLITE bubbly female, GSOH, seeks gent for caring friendship, likes nights in and socialising. Dartford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382666

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382617

SEALLED with a kiss, 37yrs old single mom, blonde hair blue eyes, curly hair, sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkestone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357291

LATE 20's female seeking older male. Call to hear exactly what I'm like and looking for. I can meet anywhere in London at any time. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359995

TALL slim blonde, just 21yrs seeks interesting older male who knows what's what, show me the ways of the world. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356969

SOUTH London, Lady, full figure with long hair curves in all the right places, 5ft 5ins, any age for fun, friend, ship and more Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356989

DEBBIE mid 50's, attractive, likes dancing, music, cinema, theatre, seeks male for companionship. Maidstone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351419

ATTRACTIVE black lady, 5ft 6ins, black hair, slim, kissable lips, likes walks, horse riding, go carts, seeks professional, athletic male, 35-45, athletic, 5ft 11ins. London. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359685

FUN loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel, I love a risk and having fun Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

FOREIGN beauty, long, long hair, 20's yrs, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. London area. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356967

BLACK female, likes meals out, theatre, seeks solvent white male, 30-47 for genuine relationship. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356967

BUBBLY outgoing nurse, (I love my uniform), fancy meeting up North London for some fun loving fun Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356983

ATTRACTIVE lady, curvy and fun, looking for an uncomplicated fun only relationship, after work etc, any area London. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356991

COULD you capture my heart? Ly 49, slim, romantic, likes simple things, conversation, walks, flowers, seeks romantic guy to share my journey. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358264

PROFESSIONAL black lady, 44, 5ft 3ins, medium build, seeks genuine, caring, professional guy, 40-54, any race for relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359586

LADY seeks N/S, clean shaven male to appreciate artistic, romantic, feisty, attractive, slim/liss, curly lady of 69 who has not yet joined the wrinkles. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349757

ATTRACTIVE slim single mom, 44, seeks similar tall male, 40-50, caring, loving and loyal, is that you? Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334393

SARAH 37, caring, kind, seeks fun, caring guy, 37-49. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346319

CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358719

TALL 2ins female, dark hair, medium build, late 40s, GSOH, likes cinema, walks, family life, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350381

FEMALE 29, HIV likes cinema, music, countryside, cosy nights in, seeks good male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356613

HAPPY fun loving, attractive, intelligent, educated, slim, curly female, late 40's, WLTM caring, sincere man interested in theatre, reading, arts, nature and walks for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356613

PROFESSIONAL attractive, friendly, black British female, mid 40s, size 10-12 like maintaining makes sincere male of any nationality for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 34125

CRYSTAL 5ft 5ins, long dark hair, hazel eyes, olive skin, seeks male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383374

28YR old blonde, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380918

LISA 42, medium build, likes cooking, walks, music, days out/night, WLTM caring, down to earth male, 40-50. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 332817

OUTGOING since 5ft 6ins lady WLTM tall, caring interesting male 70's to share life's adventure. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 357959

FEMININE lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for any area London/Surrey/Kent. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985

52YR old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382666

DENISE young 50, likes cuddles, nights in/out, seeks male, 37-47 for LTR. Erith. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382864

LATE 40's female, likes most things, animals, walks, cinema, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353773

ATTRACTION vibrant mid 60's female, independent, likes music, travel, socialising, cultured, energetic, cultured male. Maidstone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384766

KATHY long blonde hair, blue eyes, 60s, likes motown music, nights in/out, seeks male. Ramsgate. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361797

MARY 62, 5ft 3ins, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes nights in/out, seeks honest male for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359467

CAROLE slim, petite, blonde, green eyes, attractive, 46, likes sports, music, cinema, seeks gentle, considerate N/S male. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358114

FUN loving country girl, 48, seeks male for friendship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384488

FEMALE seeks N/S, clean, tidy white, male, 42-50 for friendship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361049

TALL dark, handsome male, athletic, stocky, tanned, helpful, generous, seeks female. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385437

NICE looking fella, 45, 6ft, slim, open-minded, no baggage, seeks genuine, relaxed, sexy female, with similar outlook for all the good stuff and more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365681

RAOUL Indian, 28, open-minded, seeks female for friendship, meals out, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364913

MICHAEL 53yr old, young at heart, slim, fit, OHAC, solvent, seeks special hon/est, modern female, 40-59. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364844

MICHAEL 40, fit, dark, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, can you make me smile again, wanting friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364844

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, loving, cuddly, talkative, likes theatre, holidays, travel, walks, countryside, seeks loving female for relationship, 39-57. Ashford. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365117

HANDSOME black male, seeks lovely lady for ongoing friendship and relationship. Surrey. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385496

DAVE 45, security officer, seeks nice pleasant lady, 35-45 for TLC, nights in/out. Manchester. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365199

KIND affectionate male, seeks like-minded lady. Tonbridge/Somer. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363518

HANDY male, 52, 5ft 8ins, large build, smoker, seeks female, 30-60 for fun. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 268754

36YR old guy, seeks lady for fun, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364965

MALE 45, GSOH, seeks N/S lady for fun. Woking. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364863

GAY guy non scene, good looking, seeks similar guy for no strings fun. Maidstone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365401

PAUL 55, bi-curious, fit, like CD, seeks male of any age for uncomplicated times together. Canterbury. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385368

GAY non scene student, Tim, mid 20's, seeks older retired gent, 75 plus for fun relationship. seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363999

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 311892



Men Seeking

GOD looking straight male, 52, likes CD, seeks socialising, culture, music, travel, socialising, seeks culture, energetic, cultured male. Maidstone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384436

ALEC 57, likes keep fit, cycling, GSOH, seeks lady, 40 plus for fitness and friendship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339463

ACTOR 5ft 10ins, strong build, likes theatre, music, comedy, politics, seeks intelligent, attractive female, 35-45 with GSOH. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349871

MIKE 37, good looking, dark, fit, blue eyes, seeks attractive female, 35-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 315109

TALL dark, handsome male, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364755

ROB 38, likes animals, cinema, walks, meals out, children, slim, 5ft 11ins, black hair, seeks bubbly female, 25-40. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349069

MICKEY 53yr old, young at heart, slim, fit, OHAC, solvent, seeks special hon/est, modern female, 40-59. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364844

MICHAEL 40, fit, dark, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, can you make me smile again, wanting friendship, maybe more. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364844

RICHARD 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 8ins, easygoing, genuine, likes holidays, theatre, music, cooking, beach walks, countryside, cinema, seeks similar female 36-57 for LTR. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363903

INTELLIGENT life loving professional writer Canterbury, 53, 5ft 9ins, seeks bright, interesting lady for sincere friendship. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364781

STEFAN 47, likes walks, theatre, cinema, seeks caring, sincere, fun female. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365005

KIND affectionate male, seeks like-minded lady. Tonbridge/Somer. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363518

HANDY male, 52, 5ft 8ins, large build, smoker, seeks female, 30-60 for fun. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 268754

GAY guy non scene, good looking, seeks similar guy for no strings fun. Maidstone. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365401

PAUL 55, bi-curious, fit, like CD, seeks male of any age for uncomplicated times together. Canterbury. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385368

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MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 311892



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New Beginnings

By Fern Britton

Harper Collins, £12.99

FORMER This Morning presenter Fern Britton, who hosts a new Channel 4 chat show this spring, examines the cut-throat world of TV in her debut novel *New Beginnings*.

The daughter of actor Tony Britton, she charted her own life several years ago in her autobiography, including the divorce from her first husband, TV executive Clive Jones, with whom she had three children, and the lingering depression that she has battled through much of her adult life.

Mum-of-four Britton, who married TV cool Phil Vickery in 2000 and with whom she has a nine-year-old daughter, is tougher than she seems if the TV world she describes in her novel is authentic.

"You have to remember you're not a heart surgeon," she reflects. "When you make a mistake or a fool of yourself, or someone's unpleasant, you think 'Well, what I'm doing isn't frightfully important'."



Bomb Hunters

By Sean Rayment

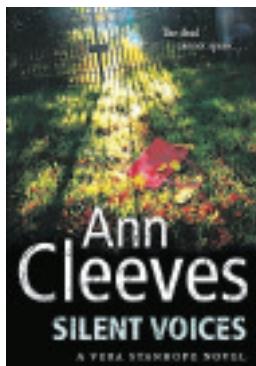
Harper Collins, £18.99

THIS ex-paratrooper shadowed the Army's elite bomb-disposal experts in the most dangerous regions of Afghanistan as they risked life and limb to defuse deadly below-surface Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

It's hard to imagine what it must feel like to 'walk the line' – to locate and clear an area of bombs, when one mistake is likely to be your last.

And with the Taliban's non-stop production of IEDs – the crudely-made but highly effective mines that have killed and maimed so many British soldiers in Afghanistan – that job becomes more deadly every day.

In his new book, he reveals the heart-stopping situations soldiers have found themselves in, what makes them tick, and whether any real progress is being made in the war against the Taliban.



Silent Voices

By Ann Cleeves

Macmillan, £17.99

THE world of television used to be a mystery to unassuming crime-writer Ann Cleeves, who spends much of her time working on a laptop in the kitchen of her 1930s semi.

Then last year the 56-year-old award-winning author from Northumberland was hurled headlong into the frantic TV world of producers and directors, actors and scriptwriters.

Her character, DI Vera Stanhope, a dowdy spinster with a sharp brain and cruel wit, is being brought to life on screen by Brenda Blethyn in the ITV1 series *Vera*.

Cleeves, a grandmother-of-five, remains relatively unfazed by the whole experience but still cannot quite believe how *Vera* drew the attention of TV executives.

"It was like a fairytale," she recalls. "A scriptwriter for ITV went into her local Oxfam and bought a second-hand copy of *The Crow Trap*, the second of the *Vera* books, and liked it.

"They were looking for a strong female lead for a detective show, so it wasn't just chance. Then they optioned it and it all happened very quickly."



Jaguar E-type

Haynes, £25

I'M not a huge car enthusiast, writes Ed Hill. If you look at my motoring history, I have always gone for practicality over style, but growing up in the 70s there was one car that seemed the epitome of speed and grace: the Jaguar E-Type.

My brother would tell me his ideal car was a G registration 4.2-litre fixed-head coupé model. As a seven-year-old, I thought there was something extra-special about the 'G reg' car, not realising it was just the year the motor was bought.

The E-Type certainly comes from a different era, when petrol was 22 pence a gallon and designers didn't give a damn about crash-test results or pedestrian safety.

If I am ever in the position to be able to afford a classic sports car, the E-Type would be at the top of the list – for the moment, though, I can at least own a book about it.

As part of its Great Cars series, Haynes has released a new edition about Jaguar's most famous sports car. Not surprisingly, the book is full of high-quality pictures and technical cutaways of the sleek speedster.

At its launch in 1961, the E-Type was revolutionary. It was cheap compared with the more expensive Ferraris, Porsches and Aston Martins, but its performance outstripped them all.

The book is full of all the information the E-Type enthusiast could need. It covers all the models from the early 3.8-litre-engined cars to the 1970s British Leyland models with their gas-guzzling V12s that eventually fell foul of US safety and emission laws.

There are also some interesting nuggets of information. For example, Roger Moore was due to drive an E-Type in the TV series *The Saint*, but Sir William Lyons, the boss of Jaguar, was too penny-pinching to loan them a car so he ended up in a Volvo.

If you love British sports cars, this book is an ideal read and now when I watch repeats of the *Italian Job* and my eyes wince as two E-Types get bulldozed off the road by the Mafia, at least I can recognise the suspension system as they tumble down the mountain.



Swing The boys are back in town

Woodville Halls, Gravesend

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www.gravesham.gov.uk

THE Rat Pack are back with their Vegas Spectacular as they hope to sing their way into the hearts of Kent's crooner fans. Memories of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Junior will be flooding back with this timeless production that continues to be successful across the globe. It is fun all the way as the tribute to the creators of cool swing into Gravesend's Woodville Halls featuring some of the greatest music ever written. All songs are performed live and every one is a classic including *Come Fly With Me*, *Under My Skin*, *Mr Bojangles*, *Lady Is A Tramp*, *That's Amore*, *Mack The Knife* and many more of your favourites. The top Rat Pack impersonators are back in the country after a well-received international tour.

With an abundance of class and style, they take you on a trip back in time to a vintage Las Vegas soiree that remains the hottest party around.



Local scene Funke brings music to art

iScream and Rock Gallery, Margate

Monday, April 25, 6pm
Email mark@iscreamandrock.co.uk

MUSICIAN Funke and the Two Tone Baby is launching his debut single at the iScream and Rock gallery in Margate. Funke, otherwise known as Daniel Turnbull, has been

carving a name out for himself through relentless performing in east Kent. His eccentric and occasionally erratic character is reflected in his debut single, *Darkest Of Days*, released through Canterbury Christ Church University's student-run record label, C3U Records. Mark Downing, owner of iScream and Rock, said: "We came to Margate inspired by the beauty of the location and the huge amount of creativity in the area. I first caught Funke live at a local festival last year and I thought his sound was hugely fresh."



Folk Rochester sweeps

High Street, Rochester
Saturday, April 30, to Monday, May 2
Phone 01634 843666

MEDWAY'S annual Sweeps Festival re-creates the celebrations enjoyed by the chimney sweeps at their traditional holiday (always held on May 1), the one time of the year that the young sweeps could leave the soot behind and have some fun. This year will see parades, music and more than 50 Morris-dancing groups performing as well as the sweeps procession.

Del gets independence as the Trotters start trading



Rock and Chips

Thursday, April 28, 9pm, BBC One

SOME people may think the BBC has missed a trick in not bringing Only Fools And Horses back for the royal wedding.

Del Boy Trotter would surely have been in his element flogging misprinted Wills and Kate memorabilia to gullible tourists on his Peckham market stall. But instead we've got the next best thing, the third instalment of the acclaimed prequel series Rock And Chips.

For anyone who's missed previous offerings, it's set in the 60s, when Del Boy (James Buckley) was still a tricky teenager and Rodney a baby.

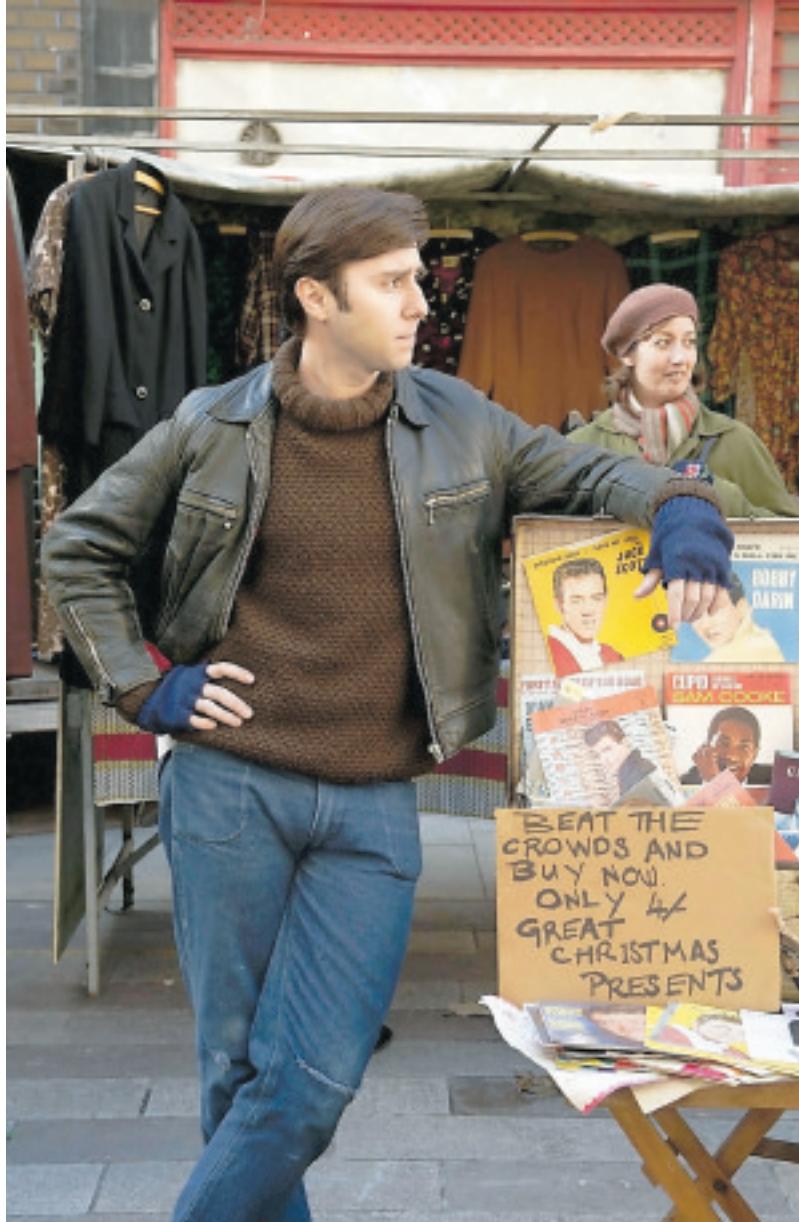
Mum Joan (Kellie Bright) is still the breadwinner, holding down a job at The Ritz cinema while also working as Freddie Robdal's (Nicholas Lyndhurst) charlady. In fact, she'd like to set up home with Freddie permanently but decides to put off the divorce from her feckless husband Reg until Del is settled and ready to step out on his own.

At least her son's relationship with funeral director's daughter Barbara (Jessica Ashworth) is going well... until things take a turn for the worse when he manages to get trapped in a kitchen with her inebriated mother.

As in the first two prequels from 2010, watch out for special guest appearances, with comedian Mel Smith, actress Paula Wilcox and cockney cheeky geezer Phil Daniels all contributing.

Young Del, James Buckley of Inbetweeners fame, said: "It's important to remember that this isn't an episode of Only Fools And Horses. That's already been done so brilliantly that there wouldn't be any point in trying to do it again."

Rock And Chips has already proved it has the quality to emerge from the shadows of its predecessor, but can it continue to shine the same way and for so many years without becoming too try-hard? In the words of Del himself, play it nice and cool, Trig, nice and cool.



EARLY DAYS: Rock And Chips takes Del, centre, and Rodney, top left baby, back to their younger days

Blanket coverage of royal wedding, but who to pick?

Royal Wedding

Friday, April 29, 8.30am, BBC One and ITV

But then again there might not be. It might all go swimmingly, with the lavish ceremony at Westminster Abbey acting as the icing on the cake of another memorable royal event soon to be consigned to the nation's history books. There will be blanket coverage on both BBC One and ITV1 all day. In fact, if you're not a fan of such state events, you're going to struggle

to avoid it. But for those who love such life-changing decisions, you have also got a big choice to make. Do you follow the traditional route by watching the Beeb's coverage, or go with the more down-to-earth approach of ITV1?

With the wedding circus likely to dominate channels for 10 hours on the day, it is probably wise to channel-flick to get an all-round perspective but also to gather information on where to get hold of the latest Wills and Kate limited-edition dog-food bowl.



IT'S A MYSTERY: Vera is the latest TV detective

New super-sleuth ready for murders

Vera

Sunday, May 1, 8pm, ITV

AWARD-WINNING actress Brenda Blethyn OBE stars in Vera, a new murder mystery for ITV.

Having starred in Secrets And Lies, Pride And Prejudice and Atonement, Blethyn will now take on the role of Detective Inspector Vera Stanhope in a television adaptation of a book by crime-writer Ann Cleeves.

The script, which is based on the book Hidden Depths, has been adapted by Paul Rutman, who has written on both the Marple and Lewis sleuth series'.

Our central character is obsessive about her work and driven by her own demons. If she's lonely, she doesn't show it and faces the world with caustic wit, guile and courage.

Her trusted and long-suffering colleague is Joe Ashworth, her right-hand man and surrogate son. And together they approach every new case with unparalleled gusto and professionalism.

Set in a modern-day Northumberland close-knit community, this engrossing murder mystery centres on the discovery of two bodies found floating in water but garlanded with wild flowers.

Vera and Joe are called to the stylised murder scene and as they start to interview the friends and relatives of the victims, sinister secrets are slowly unearthed.

International bestseller Ann Cleeves was the first author to win the inaugural CWA Duncan Lawrie Dagger, now the biggest crime-fiction prize in the world, for her novel Raven Black, part of the Shetland Island quartet.

Kate Bartlett, executive producer on the new show, said: "We're delighted to be in production on a new character-driven crime drama."

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NOT that you need reminding, but there is a small, modest, understated affair occurring on Friday, April 29, 2011. It is called the royal wedding. That's right, now is the time for the rumours as to what Kate Middleton will wear and how many pints Prince William sank on his stag do to finally stop. At last the moment for the official knot-tying can commence. With Prince Harry as best man and a less than jovial Queen awaiting Kate as an inlaw, the sparks could fly. There could be a jilting at the altar!

OUR TOP FIVE

1 Red Riding Hood
(12A) Valerie (Amanda Seyfried) lives with her parents in a village plagued by a werewolf. Every full moon, the locals tether a pig to a stake as a sacrifice and lock their doors. When the beast claims the life of Valerie's sister under a blood-red moon, renowned werewolf-hunter Father Solomon (Gary Oldman) vows to unmask the killer in their midst. A love triangle and bloodshed ensues.

2 Tomorrow, When The War Began
(12A) Ellie (Caitlin Stasey) asks her parents if she can borrow the family car so she can drive her friends to a remote sinkhole known as Hell for one final hurrah before the school holidays end. Best friend Corrie (Rachel Hurd-Wood), boyfriend Kevin (Lincoln Lewis), beauty queen Fiona (Phoebe Tonkin) and classmates head into the strange wilderness.

3 The Roommate
(15, 91 min) Sara Matthews (Minka Kelly) leaves behind her troubles in Des Moines and starts anew at the University of Los Angeles, where she is welcomed by her wealthy roommate Rebecca (Leighton Meester). Friendship blossoms and Sara heals her wounded heart in the arms of hunky freshman Stephen (Cam Gigandet). Then life begins to spiral out of control.

4 Your Highness (15)
Prince Thaddeus (Danny McBride) has always been in the shadow of his handsome brother, Prince Fabious (James Franco), who is – unsurprisingly – the favourite of their father (Charles Dance) and the lusty maidens of the realm. Fabious returns from another quest with beautiful Belladonna (Zooey Deschanel), who he intends to marry. But that is where this fairytale ends.

5 Winnie The Pooh
(U) A narrator (John Cleese) welcomes us to Hundred Acre Wood, where Pooh (voiced by Jim Cummings) is rudely woken from his bed in order to help look for Eeyore's missing tail. Unfortunately, the rotund bear is more interested in finding a pot of honey than joining forces with Piglet (Travis Oates), Owl, Tigger and Christopher Robin on the expedition. A heart-warming tail, I mean tale.

NEW RELEASES

**Rio****U, 95 mins**

CARLOS Saldanha, director of the phenomenally successful Ice Age films, ventures to sunnier climes for this joyous computer-animated romantic comedy.

Set to intoxicating Brazilian rhythms and bursting with colour, Rio follows the same template as Ice Age, introducing us to a menagerie of wacky and neurotic critters, whose fates rest in the balance.

Slapstick comedy here comes from a gang of larcenous monkeys, who pick the pockets of unsuspecting tourists, and a bulldog

suffering from excessive saliva. Don Rhymer peppers his script with a few one-liners for parents, but Rio is skewed towards a younger audience, keeping the first flutterings of romance off screen.

Blu (voiced by Jesse Eisenberg) is a domesticated blue macaw who lives in relative luxury in the sleepy community of Moose Lake, Minnesota.

The bird doesn't want for anything, his hot chocolate made to perfection with six mini marshmallows by his doting owner and best friend Linda (Leslie Mann).

Brazilian conservationist Tulio (Rodrigo Santoro) arrives in Moose Lake to ask Linda to bring Blu to Rio de Janeiro,

so the rare bird can mate with the only known female blue macaw, Jewel (Anne Hathaway). Eventually, Linda agrees and she and Blu head to South America, which is in the grip of carnival season.

No sooner has Blu met Jewel than the birds are kidnapped by greedy animal smugglers led by the nefarious Marcel (Carlos Ponce).

While Blu is a scaredy-cat, resigned to his fate, Jewel orchestrates a daring escape bid, evading the clutches of the smuggler's feathered sidekick, a conniving cockatoo called Nigel (Jemaine Clement).

However, since Blu is unable to fly, the macaws have limited escape options and as Nigel and the smugglers give chase,

Blu and Jewel must rely on the help of a toucan called Rafael (George Lopez) and wise-cracking city birds Pedro (Will.i.am) and Nico (Jamie Foxx) to find their way back to Linda and Tulio.

Rio tread a familiar and predictable path but does so in style, opening with a glorious aerial sequence through the Brazilian rainforests, where birds soar and swoop in breathtaking choreographed formations.

Eisenberg has his character's neuroses down pat, Hathaway is gleeful as the feisty heroine, while Clement has a ball as the feathered fiend, whose tongue-in-cheek dialogue is littered with puns and delightful alliterations.

Scre4m**15, 110mins**

At a pivotal moment in Wes Craven's self-referential and self-reverential slasher, a main character professes "The first rule of remakes: don't mess with the original."

The same rule applies to sequels, and screenwriter Kevin Williamson, who has penned the Scream series since its delicious 1996 debut, hasn't been shy about recycling ideas for the numerous outings of his knife-wielding menace, Ghostface. For Scre4m, Williamson embraces past glories by bringing the terror full circle as surviving characters of the original reunite in the once-sleepy town of Woodsboro.

Neve Campbell, Courteney Cox and David Arquette reprise their iconic roles, flanked by some fresh faces.

It has been 10 years since the harrowing events of Scream 3 and survivor Sidney Prescott (Campbell) has penned a self-help book entitled *Out Of Darkness*. She embarks on a whirlwind book tour, culminating in a signing session in her home town.

Alas, no sooner has Sidney arrived in Woodsboro than Ghostface emerges from the shadows. Scre4m settles into a familiar pattern, nodding affectionately to earlier films while acknowledging new rules of the genre during the past decade. Performances teeter on hysteria for the final showdown when Ghostface's identity is revealed.



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Box office 0870 5050007

CANTERBURY ODEON ST: George's Place. Box office 0871 2244007**CHATHAM CENTRAL THEATRE:**

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Guildhall Street. Box office 01303 221230

GULBENKIAN THEATRE: University of Kent. Box office 01227 769075**HAWKHURST KINO:** Victoria Hall, Rye Road. Box office 01580 754321**HERNE BAY KAVANAGH:**

Herne Bay Leisure Centre. Box office 01227 365676

MAIDSTONE ODEON: Lockmeadow. Box office 0871 2244007**RAMSGATE GRANVILLE:** Victoria Parade. Box office 01843 591750**ROCHESTER CINEWORLD:** Multiplex Medway Valley Park. Box office 08701 560568**SANDWICH EMPIRE:** Delf Street. Box office 01304 620480**STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE:**

Stag Theatre, London Road. Box office 01732 450175

TRINITY ARTS CENTRE: Church Road, Tunbridge Wells. Box office 01892 679679**TUNBRIDGE WELLS ODEON:**

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The wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton will be the perfect excuse for the whole of the country to party. Royal weddings show the very best face of Britain to the world and are always a cause for rejoicing as the couple tie the knot. Whether it be a street party, an informal gathering or a giant open-air event such as the one at Leeds Castle, it's going to be an occasion when revellers will want to look their best. These fashion ideas will be sure to turn heads at even the most stylish gatherings – but make sure you don't upstage the bride.



Glamour girl
Look the belle of the ball in this black glitter maxi dress
£65
www.fiftyplus.co.uk

Dress up
For party wear, nothing beats a panel dress
£139
www.mint-velvet.co.uk

Floating on air
A chiffon floaty dress combines style with femininity
£259
www.elegance.co.uk



Party feet
Strappy sandals are perfect with any outfit
£99
www.mintvelvet.co.uk



Max it up

For outdoor wear or indoor wear on the big day, this maxi dress is ideal

£50

www.fiftyplus.co.uk



Strut

These python-heeled shoes will grace any outfit

£99

www.mintvelvet.co.uk



Check it out

This pink-checked jacket will ensure you have party time in mind

£299

www.elegance.co.uk



Sparkle

Sequin dresses are always likely to prove a hit at any gathering

£199

www.mintvelvet.co.uk



Elegant

This print dress will stun party-goers

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www.next.co.uk



With the royal wedding dominating the headlines this month, romance is well and truly in the air.

And when it comes to weddings, although in many cases the happy couple produce a list of gifts they would like to receive, sometimes it is a great idea to surprise them. After all – they might need a toaster or a tea set, but how about something to go alongside their set requests? That certainly shows that you've given their big day some thought – and adds that personal touch. If you have family or friends tying the knot in the coming weeks, here are a few ideas for wedding gifts to bring a smile to their faces. And to further celebrate Prince William's marriage to Kate Middleton – some have a bit of a patriotic element.

**London Ludo**

Play the London Ludo game and raise funds for a charity by buying this board game from British Heart Foundation's online store

£10.99

www.giftshop.bhf.org.uk

**Union Jack mugs**

This metallic Union Flag mug set shows you're proud of your country and like a good old-fashioned cuppa

£8

[matalan www.matalan.co.uk](http://www.matalan.co.uk)

**Patriotic teapot**

What better to pour your tea from than this truly patriotic teapot made by Matalan?

£10

www.matalan.co.uk

Colourful cushion

The colourful designs on this cushion from House of Fraser will be a talking point for anyone who wants to relax on a sofa or chair

£40

www.hof.co.uk

**Coloured cushion**

This cushion will add style and a splash of bright shades to any home

£15

www.next.co.uk

Splash out on a new bathroom for a stylish way to upgrade your property

THE bathroom can be as stylish as any other room in the home. The right sort of equipment and décor can make sure it is a prize asset, combining its functional nature with a welcoming ambience.

The key to getting the room to utilise its full potential is space – with vital necessities stored away to allow the room to have a clean and uncluttered look.

Geoff Wells, bathroom planning expert for Dolphin, explains how to maximise the space in your bathroom.

He said: "Space can often be limited, so careful planning of storage solutions and overall design is vital in creating the perfect bathroom. Even a larger bathroom can be spoiled by a badly laid-out design that does not use the room to its full potential.

"Custom-made floor and wall cabinets offer a great solution for storage, keeping surfaces clear and the bathroom looking streamlined, while stylish vanity units with shelves, drawers and cabinets hide belongings from view and can be built around sanitary-ware to cover unattractive pipework."

Making the most of floorspace is also important in keeping the room looking good.

Geoff said: "Corner vanity units are especially suitable for smaller bathrooms, making the most of an unused area. To really maximise space, consider space-saving solutions such as corner baths or sinks to make the most of an unused area of the room and opt for wall-hung sanitary ware, cabinets and towel rails to leave floor space clear and the bathroom accessible."

With space at a premium in many of today's homes, creating ample storage and workspace is essential to the smooth running of your home, which is why the best designers are able to design your room to its best use, giving you units that fit perfectly and innovative features to match – all designed to make life easier.

Dolphin has branches across Kent, at Westwood Cross in Broadstairs, the centre of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells and Aylesford.

A vital part of the bathroom is, of course, the shower unit.

Triton has showers available in six chic high-gloss and matt finishes, and it is possible to choose a shower that works perfectly with your colour scheme or perhaps even adds a touch of bold contrast to your look.

For contemporary styling, try the sleek metallic look of gun metal and brushed steel. Or the striking matt black pearl and riviera sands for a more natural stone look, which brings a feeling of texture into your bathroom scheme.

The luxury designer feel extends to controls, too. One central knob selects the temperature, while soft-touch electronic technology incorporated into the buttons means the shower can be switched on with ease.

All models have an integrated phased shutdown system, which flushes out all remaining hot water so there are no nasty surprises for the next user. This has the added benefit of prolonging the life of the shower, so saving you money in the long run.



■ Venus is one of Dolphin's most popular ranges and can be obtained online or from any of the company's stores at a starting cost of £6,000

■ Madison from Dolphin starts at £6,000, including installation



■ Bijou, below, from Dolphin can be fitted to any space from £6,000

■ The stylish Oasis range, above, can be modified for any room. Prices start at £6,000 at www.dolphinbathrooms.co.uk



■ Make sure your shower is cost-effective like this one by Triton in its Aspirant range, which comes in both white and black, priced from £199 to £250 – see www.tritonshowers.co.uk



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Renville House near Canterbury

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Renville House is situated in a magnificent parkland setting with an extremely important group of historic former farm and estate buildings, designated as a Conservation Area.

It is a home that echoes the splendour of this most elegant of ages and is sited in the heart of beautiful east Kent.

The surrounding countryside of woodland, orchards, pasture and arable fields is an area notable for its stunning landscape – yet the house is just two miles from the cathedral city of Canterbury.

The house itself is of classical Georgian style and constructed of yellow stock bricks with a symmetrical façade, sash windows, deep box eaves and a pair of eaves brackets.

The elegant and well-proportioned accommodation has 10ft-high ceilings in many rooms and retains numerous original features such as picture rails, tall skirtings and original bells which would have been used to summon home-helps.

There are also many fine fireplaces and the property has been beautifully refurbished with a superb kitchen/breakfast room, excellent



Stunning parkland home

conservatory/entertaining room which has a large glazed lantern roof and electrically-operated top windows to provide an airy and light space.

The four further receptions are also ideal for entertaining and a utility room includes a washing-machine, dryer and cloakroom.

The sitting room has a fireplace with a wood-burning stove, display cupboards each side of the chimney breast and French doors to the conservatory.

There are four principal bedrooms, one en-suite bathroom and one en-suite shower room and a family bathroom on the first floor together with a fifth bedroom on the second floor and an extensive lower groundfloor cellar.

In total the home has 5,369 square feet of floor space and has all mains services with gas-fired central heating and a security system.

Fitted carpets are included in the price, but fixtures and fittings are excluded – although they may be available by separate negotiation.

A tree-lined private drive leads to the house and neighbouring properties and there is a large gravel parking and turning area in front of it.

To the front of the house are many mature trees and shrubs, including a splendid magnolia and a formal garden laid to grass with borders and hedged boundary to the left.

The gardens extend each side to the back with further lawns and mature trees together with a large area of decking beside the rear of the home.



There is a further gated entrance with additional parking and access to the detached double garage and neighbouring detached store.

Post and rail fencing runs along the north-west garden boundary and the paddock beyond.

Bridge village offers a good range of local shops and amenities including the highly-regarded primary school, a health centre and tennis courts.

Educational facilities in Canterbury include an extensive range of schools in both the independent and state sector.

These include King's, St Edmunds and Kent College public schools and a grammar school. The city is also home to a number of further educational establishments, including the University of Kent.

The city has a wide range of cultural and leisure amenities, including the new Marlowe Theatre, which will reopen in October after a massive redesign.

There are also museums, excellent shopping facilities and a great range of pubs, bars and restaurants.

The St Lawrence Ground is the home of Kent County Cricket Club and there is an impressive number of renowned golf courses, as well as further sporting opportunities at the Polo Farm centre.

■ Viewing through Jackson-Stops & Staff 01227 781600.



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Giant cowl being lowered onto the roundel of a brand new “Oast” house

It was a somewhat delicate operation when Hillreed Homes carefully lowered a giant white cowl onto the pinnacle of a roundel at Oast Court Farm, Wateringbury Road in East Malling, Kent where the company is building a magnificent three roundel “Oast” house.

“It was quite a tricky manoeuvre which had to be repeated on a further two roundels on this magnificent house”, says Dean Markall, Sales and Marketing Director at Hillreed Homes. “This is a rare opportunity to purchase a brand new “oast” style home. The five bedrooms, four reception rooms property stands at the head of this private gated development which backs onto open fields. All the properties are architecturally designed to reflect the Kentish vernacular.”

Oast Houses are dotted around the beautiful Kent countryside, a County nicknamed the “Garden of England”. These magnificent edifices are striking in their appearance with their magnificent roundels and bright white cowl and weather vanes.

The history of the Oast Houses encompasses, in a microcosm, the agricultural activity of the 19th century. The Oasts played an important role as they were designed for a very important reason – it was for the drying of the locally grown hops, the vital ingredient in brewing beer.

The hops had to be dried swiftly on the day of harvest and this resulted in a proliferation of Oast Houses. Once the hops were stacked on the upper floors a fire was lit below and the air channelled through the floor to dry the hops. The resultant humid air was funnelled up and away via the conical roof of the kiln through the cowl.

Throughout the years the kilns’ design changed beginning as square towers which were easier to build, then around 1840 it was felt that round kilns would provide better heat distribution, this in turn was reversed and a decision was made that square kilns were better!

However what is probably better for everyone in the 21st century is a home built in the magnificent iconic

shape of an Oast House, and developers Hillreed Homes has done just that.

The joy of owning an Oast House doesn’t stop there; inside you have the pleasure of two floors built “in the round” so these curved rooms are exceedingly eye catching; an interior designer’s ultimate challenge and greatest reward!



Hillreed Homes recently built an Oast House at Kings Hill, the highly desirable residential area in West Malling in Kent and the company is now progressing well to completion of the one at Oast Court Farm. This is an extremely spacious home with three roundels comprising bright, white wooden cowls on the top of their handsome dusky red conically shaped roofs.

The whole attached property offers an amazing 3007 sq feet of living space with the living room, dining room, impressive staircase and breathtaking fully fitted kitchen created in the three roundels. On the first floor the master bedroom, plus three further bedrooms have all been built in the roundels. Such is the size of the property it has also created, in a more conventionally shaped home, two storeys comprising an almost 17



foot family room plus study with bedroom two and bathrooms on the first floor.

This home is so magnificent in its elegant design and appointments that anyone interested may find it prudent to visit the site at this early stage to appreciate its location, appearance and lifestyle opportunity. There is only one Oast House, so if you want an individual home of character and class, visit Oast Court Farm now. Price £900,000

Other properties at the development start from £480,000 for a four bedroom property with two garages. The development offers a private, brand new tennis court and changing rooms for use of residents and their friends. ■



Pictures: PAUL JERREAT



IN LINE: The Maidstone area has witnessed many new houses in recent years – these are at Langley

All roads lead to our county town

THE River Medway runs through the heart of the county town and has recently been a focus for property development.

Maidstone has seen a number of apartment blocks built alongside the banks, leading to an influx of new residents, mainly drawn from the professional classes. New shopping facilities, restaurants, bars and pubs have also opened their doors.

The majority of prices along the riverbank for apartments range from about £155,000 to £210,000, although there are some to be had at a lower cost.

Recent developments have focused on the traditional importance of the river – even leading to the development of homes in shapes resembling the prows of boats.

Away from the river area, prices fall, especially on the outskirts of the town itself.

Further out still, there are some extremely attractive homes to be had in villages such as Harrietsham, Bearsted and Sutton Valence.

Historically, the area around the town saw some genuine bargains, particularly in the village of Hollingbourne, when the high-speed railway line was first planned.

Many people felt that homes would be



blighted by noise and property was on the market for values well below what would normally be asked.

Noise-prevention measures made the impact of the trains less than first anticipated, so some buyers did very well.

Some homes in the Yalding area have suffered water damage to ground floors and exteriors from flooding.

Subsequent improvements to river flow have helped counter this threat – but insurance premiums in some villages along the Medway remain high.

A feature of the area is the distinctive oast-house design, and developer Hillreed Homes is constructing a distinctive three-roundel house in that style at East Malling.

And of 30 new homes at The Point development, many have already been sold, with just eight two-bedroom apartments still available.

As the seat of local government for Kent and home to the headquarters of the police and fire services, Maidstone is arguably the most important town in the county.

The housing developments of recent years have reflected this prestige and the town and its surroundings continue to be a desirable place in which to live.

PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON MAIDSTONE

What makes it special

AS the county town, Maidstone is one of the most important places in Kent. Home to excellent shopping opportunities, bars, pubs and restaurants and with a good selection of hotels, it is also an excellent base for exploring one of the most beautiful parts of the country. It is excellently sited with quick motorway and rail access to other parts of the South East, London and beyond. It is also close to what has been described as "the loveliest castle in the world" – Leeds, with its wide moat, rolling parkland surroundings and golf course. New developments have sprung up along the River Medway, which combine easy access to the town centre with stunning vistas with the latest conveniences of 21st-century living.

Room to improve

SOME of the outlying parts of the town are in need of regeneration, particularly some housing estates where, although access to the main part of town is good by public transport, some amenities are thin on the ground. Parking in the centre can be a trying experience and the traffic system is not one that copes with heavy flow, leading to slow movement and occasional gridlock.

Prices

THERE are good opportunities for bargains, especially in the way of apartments in the town. The market itself is reasonably buoyant and fluid, with properties coming on to the market and being snapped up reasonably quickly. It is also desirable for commuters. Rental properties continue to be available, with the major emphasis on smaller apartments in the town. Village property is some of the most attractive in the county,



especially along the River Medway towards Tonbridge.

Shops

THERE are two excellent shopping centres which showcase almost all of the main high-street brands. Both are within yards of each other, making shopping in the town an easy experience on foot. Some of the more unusual stores can be found just away from the centre and there is also a large number of out-of-town supermarkets. Nearby villages provide an alternative with a range of speciality stores.

Schools

THE town and surrounding villages have a wide range of schools at both primary and secondary level. Villages such as Boughton Monchelsea, Barming, Coxheath, Allington, Detling and East Farleigh all have their own schools at primary level, fostering a feeling of community and accessibility. Results have been extremely good in recent years, especially at Invicta Grammar School, where they have been outstanding, with 74 per cent A*/B grades at A-level and 62 per cent A*/A at GCSE. Bower Grove, Five Acre Wood and the independent school at Sutton Valence all provide both primary and

secondary education on-site.

Connections

MAIDSTONE has easy access to both the M2 and M20 which lead from the coast to London via the M25, which is also very close to the town. There are three railway stations with lines leading to London and Ashford International for services to the Continent and Gatwick airport via Tonbridge. The Channel Tunnel is just a short drive away and can be reached directly via the M20. The town is also set to receive high-speed trains in the near future, which will see journey times slashed on the route to London. It will also provide services to stations serving the Olympics.

What's on

THE Hazlitt Theatre in the centre of town offers a range of performances, with music, comedy and drama all featuring. Mote Park has seen some large-scale music events, including a festival headlined by Madonna. More usual are shows featuring the town's multi-cultural community. As well as an excellent central museum and art gallery, the town also has two more unusual collections, the Tyrwhitt Drake Museum of Carriages and Museum of Kent Life.

Around and about

LEEDS Castle is one of the finest attractions in the UK and features a maze in its beautiful setting, which is often used for films. The Medway has a series of walks along its banks and boat trips run from the town – kayaks can also be hired. Kits Coty House, just outside the town, is one of the more unusual attractions – comprising a number of standing stones that date from prehistoric times set on the North Downs, itself an excellent site for walking.



NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON CANTERBURY



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Picture by Paul Jerreat:
Teston Bridge, Maidstone

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£160,000

The Chenies

THIS well-presented apartment is close to the town centre and has a communal entrance, lounge and dining area, with a kitchen and ample parking. Both bedrooms have double-glazing and a galleried mezzanine floor overlooks the lounge and has views towards the nearby River Len. In front of the building there is an allocated parking space and it is close to amenities including the Chequers Centre for shopping as well as a large number of restaurants, bars and pubs.

The property also has a balcony overlooking a nature reserve. The kitchen is fitted with all modern appliances. The first bedroom has an en-suite bathroom with shower cubicle and hand-wash basin, low-level WC and radiator. The apartment is well presented throughout and has fitted carpets and all available conveniences.

Agent: Connells
01622 751034



Popular and convenient location

£200,000

Saltwood Road

THIS property in Saltwood Road, Maidstone, is in a very popular part of the town but retains its peace and quiet. It has three bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/diner, landing and a front and rear garden which are both mainly laid to lawn. A conservatory is an interesting part of the home, with double doors out to decking, wooden flooring and TV point. Parking is available for two cars.

Agent: Connells
01622 751034

Two-bedroom duplex apartment is close to town centre



Semi-detached home in special part of county

£200,000

Spot Lane

THE attractive village of Bearsted is the location for this home, which has a large driveway and garage. The address is Spot Lane, a much-sought-after location

in one of the most attractive areas in the county. However, Maidstone is also very close and the village has its own railway station with services to London's central stations. The house has an entrance hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen with three bedrooms, a bathroom and landing. Gardens are at the front and

rear of the home, with mature planting out the front and the back mainly laid to lawn. A driveway leads to a garage and car port. The village has good amenities including pubs, restaurants and a store as well as a popular village green which has events staged.

Agent: Connells
01622 751034



Chalet-style living in lovely village setting

£300,000

Green Lane

A DECEPTIVELY spacious and well-appointed detached 1950s chalet-style property with a delightful rear garden in Green Lane, Boughton Monchelsea. This lovely family home has been enhanced and improved by the current owners and enjoys spacious living accommodation and good space for appliances with excellent facilities and grounds. Externally, there is an in-and-out block-paved driveway which gives access to a carport and large garage/workshop. This home is one of the most characterful in the area on the market.

Agent: Mann Countrywide
01622 757213



Home's self-contained annexe

£440,000

Rose Villa

A BEAUTIFULLY-presented individual detached family home with self-contained annexe in the sought-after Loose area. Built in 1883, Rose Villa has been impressively and thoughtfully improved by the current owners and is presented in excellent

decorative order. It is close to the county town of Maidstone. Accommodation comprises entrance hall, living room, dining room, family room, kitchen and utility room on the ground floor.

The house is one of the most distinctive available in a village which has many amenities and easy access to the main road network

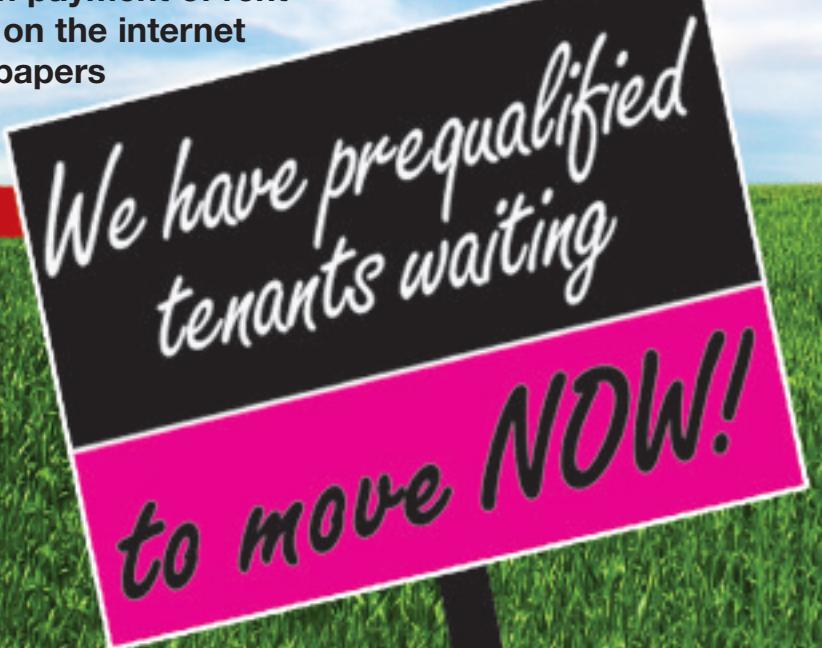
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Flat close to stations

£650pcm

College Heights

THIS property is a two-bedroom modern second-floor apartment in walking distance of the town centre and its shops, bars, pubs and restaurants and the local railway stations.

It features a large lounge,

fully-fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms and allocated parking.

The home is one of the most conveniently-sited currently on the market. It is available now but unfurnished and is in the College Heights area of the town, which is one of the most popular residential parts of Maidstone.

Agent: Seekers

Telephone: 01622 671878



Modern home that is available now

£975pcm

Near town centre

THIS is a three-bedroom modern detached home

which has easy access to the town centre of Maidstone with its facilities, schools and parks. It is also a short distance from many pubs, bars and restaurants in a desirable neighbourhood. It

offers a lounge, dining room, fitted wardrobes, garage and driveway. This family-style home is unfurnished but available now.

Agent: Seekers

Telephone: 01622 671878



Close to range of excellent travel options

£745pcm

Kingsley Road

THIS home in Kingsley Road in the southern part of Maidstone has three bedrooms and is within walking distance of the town centre. The property features a lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, cellar and garden. It is available now, although it is in an unfurnished state. The area is predominantly residential. Maidstone has excellent communications, including three railway stations, and is very close to both the M2 and M20.

Agent: Seekers

Telephone: 01622 671878



In popular area close to Mote Park

£775pcm

Upper Road

THIS three-bedroom-end-of-terrace property is in the

popular Upper Road area of Maidstone, which is mainly residential. It has easy access to the town centre with all its facilities and is also close to Mote Park, which has a leisure centre and swimming pool.

The home is available in late May and is unfurnished with a lounge/dining area, fitted kitchen, garden and driveway parking.

Agent: Seekers

Telephone: 01622 671878



Amenities are close at hand

£575pcm

West Maidstone

THIS two-bedroom terrace home in west Maidstone offers easy access to the M20, which connects the town with both London and the Channel ports.

The centre of Maidstone is also easily accessible, as are the railway stations. The property is also close to the town's hospital and other amenities include stores and pubs. It offers a garden and is available now. However, the home is unfurnished but has gas-fire central heating and double-glazing.

Agent: Seekers

Telephone: 01622 671878



In heart of the town

£595pcm

Central Maidstone

THIS one-bedroom top-floor flat is in the heart of the bustling town of Maidstone. It has a lounge/diner and fitted open-plan kitchen and

is available from mid-July. All the town's amenities are just minutes away and the cinemas and leisure centres by the River Medway also easily reachable on foot. The home is one of the most centrally-situated available.

Agent: Seekers

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MOTORING NEWS

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- Toyota offering lure of free fuel with every new Yaris



VW finds a new market with its Amarok pick-up

Driving

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Insignia a 4x4 bargain

Vauxhall's new styling an excellent choice if you want to get a grip



SEE PAGE 93 FOR ROAD TEST

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VAUXHALL



Insignia 4x4 gets a grip

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

LIST prices for cars are the grown-up version of fairy tales, so Vauxhall's 4x4 version of the Insignia is even more of a cut-price bargain than it appears.

Starting at £23,670 – officially – it is already very attractive against a Quattro-equipped Audi A4 from around £29,000, even before you negotiate some kind of deal.

And that bit of haggling could also be a handy insurance policy to have if we carry on getting the horrible icy winters we've had lately.

You can, of course, go more barmy with an all-wheel drive Insignia by opting for the VXR performance flagship, but that starts from just shy of £33 grand and, while it behaves with more restraint than its sporty add-ons might suggest, it's looks are a bit over the top for some tastes.

So, if you want to have your cake and eat it, plus keep the fuel bills in check, go for a more everyday Insignia 4x4 such as our 2.0 CDTi SRi hatchback test car.

Ours had the sporty 160PS (158bhp) output but that is still good for an average of nearly 50mpg, helped by a six-speed gearbox that delivers for motorway cruising as well as the back doubles – this Insignia version costs £26,990.

And it has all of the hallmarks that have made the Insignia such a success in taking the fight to its arch rival, the Ford Mondeo: looks, value, a classy cabin and a good driving experience.

The Insignia rightly won the European Car of the Year award when it made its debut, also signalling Vauxhall's plan to move upmarket away from value brands like its General Motors stablemate, Chevrolet, and closer to the premium marques.

Any of the Big Three German brands would surely be delighted to have created such slip-

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 4X4 SRi 2.0 CDTi: PRICE £26,990



CLASS ACT:

New Vauxhall 4x4 has all the features that helped make the original Insignia so popular, and new touches that enhance it even further

pery yet distinctive lines as the Vauxhall.

Styling is enhanced by some neat touches: blacked out door pillars lower an already coupe-style roofline, while the much discussed 'blade' detail at the back of the front wheel is a master touch suggesting power and muscle – the signature also appears on the smaller Astra, which uses the same design ethos.

Taken as a whole, it seems that Vauxhall is saying: "If you want practicality then buy our Zafira – this car is about style."

If the car's sharp suit worries BMW/Merc/Audi then the lining offers no relief. I won't say the German trio have cheapened their cabins, but the Insignia suggests they have been matched by the mainstream. It is a class act let down only a few corners being cut on the detail.

But then we need to remember the Insignia still sells for prices – adjusted for the latest VAT – that are related to that of the Vectra, its staid predecessor.

Even a sporty 'rep's favourite' in SRi trim,

with its aluminium pedals, climate control, comfy sports seats – including extendable seat base – quality sound system and smart alloys, starts at just £21,800... again, that's officially.

Fitted as standard is the cavernous cabin; the Insignia might be a far cry from the rather boxy and unlamented Vectra, but it is no less spacious.

In fact, while the big-selling and smart looking Sports Tourer estate version must be a temptation, I would argue that the huge boot of the hatchback should make most owners more than happy.

In this 4x4 form it also retains the crowd-pleasing Insignia chassis profile: good bump absorption and refinement as well as composure when pushed hard.

For those who think 'funky chunky' 4x4/off-roader styling has had its day, but still crave the reassurance of an extra pair of driving wheels, the Insignia makes a compelling case with its looks and value.

First GEAR MOTORING NEWS



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TOYOTA is giving customers six months' free fuel on a new Yaris ordered before April 30 and registered before June 30.

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Saab offers its best deals yet

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VW ready to run Amarok

GERMAN giant VW enters the pick-up market with the classy looking yet rugged Amarok on May 1, appealing to both private and commercial buyers.

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£5699

09/09 FORD FOCUS 1.8 STYLE 5DR



18553 MILES
£7499

09/09 FORD KUGA DIESEL ZETEC 2.0 TDCI 5DR



8527 MILES
£17499

CASH PRICE	£2999
DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£300
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£2699
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW) £310	
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£4050.70
INITIAL PAYMENT	£170
34 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£98.02
FINAL PAYMENT	£248.02
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	36 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	15.89%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	24.9%

CASH PRICE	£5699
DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£600
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£5099
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW) £310	
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£7494.36
INITIAL PAYMENT	£170
46 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£139.88
FINAL PAYMENT	£289.88
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	48 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	12.76%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	16.6%

CASH PRICE	£7499
DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£800
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£6699
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW) £310	
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£9825.96
INITIAL PAYMENT	£845.36
35 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£175.36
OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	£2543
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	37 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	13.92%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	17.4%

CASH PRICE	£17499
DEPOSIT/PART EXCHANGE	£2000
TOTAL AMOUNT OF CREDIT	£15499
PURCHASE FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW)	£10
CREDIT FACILITY FEE (INC IN PAYMENTS BELOW) £310	
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£22227.04
INITIAL PAYMENT	£578.39
35 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	£408.39
OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	£5355
DURATION OF AGREEMENT	37 MONTHS
FIXED RATE	13.41%
REPRESENTATIVE APR	15.4%

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[CLIMATE] 49167 MILES ..

£5699

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ZETEC 5DR 10640 MILES ..

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£8399

ZETEC 3DR AUTO 19512 MILES ..

£8399

59 FORD FOCUS PETROL HATCHBACK

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STYLE 5DR 1.6 DURATEC 100 PS

27278 MILES ..

£9799

60 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK

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1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR [110]

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ZETEC 3DR 1.6 DURATEC 100 PS

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09 FORD FOCUS PETROL HATCHBACK

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ZETEC 5DR 1.6 DURATEC 100 PS

39006 MILES ..

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ZETEC 5DR 40266 MILES ..

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ZETEC 5DR 41018 MILES ..

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09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6

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ZETEC 5DR 38608 MILES ..

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ZETEC 5DR 40042 MILES ..

£8699

09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6

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ZETEC 5DR 40029 MILES ..

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09 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC

5DR 25834 MILES ..

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09 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC

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56 FORD FOCUS 1.4 LX

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5DR 3300 MILES ..

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09 FORD FOCUS 1.8 STYLE

£7499

5DR 18553 MILES ..

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£8999

58 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC

£5699

56 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI LX

£5699

03 FORD FOCUS 2.0 ST170

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2DR 16186 MILES ..

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£8999

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£8999

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£8999

5DR 17000 MILES ..

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TDCI 140 TITANIUM 5DR 2WD

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Skoda best, says Driver Power

SKODA was the biggest winner in the UK's premier car ownership survey, Auto Express's Driver Power.

The Czech brand broke new ground by being named Best Manufacturer for the third year in a row, while its Superb was crowned top car in the prestigious Driver Power Top 100 chart.

Rounding off a fantastic year, the Skoda Yeti SUV was voted second and the hatchback/estate Skoda Octavia came fourth.

British models made their mark, too, with both Jaguar and Vauxhall faring well. The Jaguar XF, which took top spot in 2009, came third this year, while the Vauxhall Insignia was a new entry in sixth position. The Sunderland-built Nissan Qashqai was fifth.

Graham Hope, acting editor of Auto Express magazine said: "With over 23,000 people taking part in this year's survey, Driver Power has again delivered the authoritative verdict on which cars are the best in Britain to own. It's been another fantastic year for Skoda, and its success is thoroughly deserved. The Superb is a great car and a worthy winner of the Driver Power Top 100, while the brand's achievement in also being named best manufacturer confirms just how highly regarded it is. When it comes to blending quality with value, few brands do it so well as Skoda."

Robert Hazelwood, director of Skoda UK, said: "Receiving the Best Manufacturer award in the



SUPERB EFFORT: Skoda was named Driver Power's best manufacturer, and its Superb (above) No1 in its top 100 list

Auto Express Driver Power Survey for the third consecutive year is fantastic news for Skoda UK.

"We have a strong dealer network that takes excellent care of its customers and we are delighted to hear that Skoda customers are telling

us that they are pleased with the whole brand experience.

"We believe Skoda offers engineering excellence and exceptional value for money. This is evidenced in the survey, with three of

our products finishing in the top four places."

Driver Power is now in its tenth year and questions motorists on all aspects of the ownership experience, including reliability, running costs and comfort.

LATEST DRIVER POWER TOP TEN

1. Skoda Superb
2. Skoda Yeti
3. Jaguar XF
4. Skoda Octavia
5. Nissan Qashqai
6. Vauxhall Insignia
7. Mercedes E-Class MkIV
8. Mercedes E-Class MkIII
9. Hyundai i30
10. Volkswagen Golf MkVI

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Fuel economy figures for the NOTE 1.6 AUTO n-tec 5 DOOR mpg (l/100km). Urban - 31.7 (8.9), Extra Urban - 50.4 (5.6), Combined - 41.5 (6.8), CO₂ emissions 159 g/km. For the QASHQAI Range: CO₂ 189-130g/km - URBAN 26.6-47.9mpg/10.6-5.9L/100km - EXTRA URBAN 43.5-64.2mpg/6.5-4.4L/100km - COMBINED 35.3-57.6mpg/8-4.9L/100km.

*£149 Advance Payment applies to selected Nissan QASHQAI models only. Written details available on request. The facilities offered are for the hire (bailement) of goods. To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance. This is a trademark of Motability, registered charity 299745. **Nil Advance Payment applies to NOTE 1.6 n-tec Automatic.



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2010 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 2000 miles.....	£13,995
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2008 (5) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles.....	£8,495
2005 (5) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles.....	£5,995

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2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles.....	£5,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£5,995

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2008 (8) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 13000 miles.....	£6,995
2008 (8) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£6,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,495
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 20000 miles.....	£5,995
2007 (57) DAIHATSU SIRION SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£5,995

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*Price shown is for Satria Neo 1.6 GSX MT manufacturer's list price £8,495 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £888. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules. 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply.



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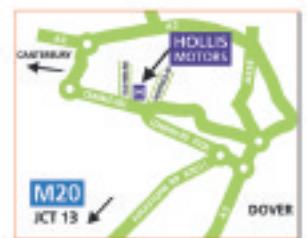
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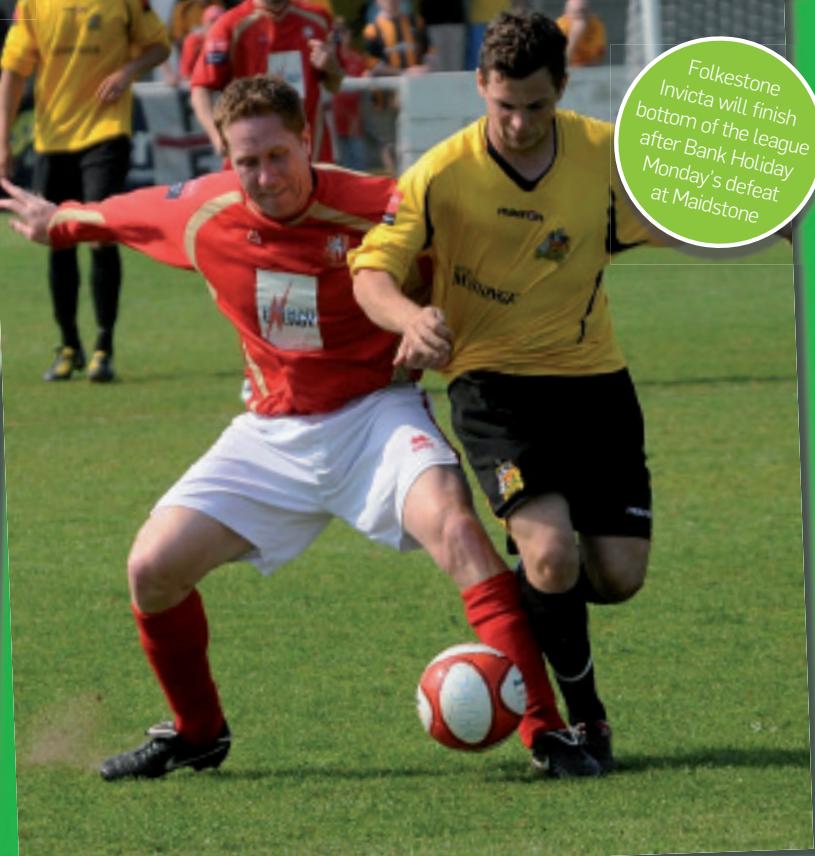
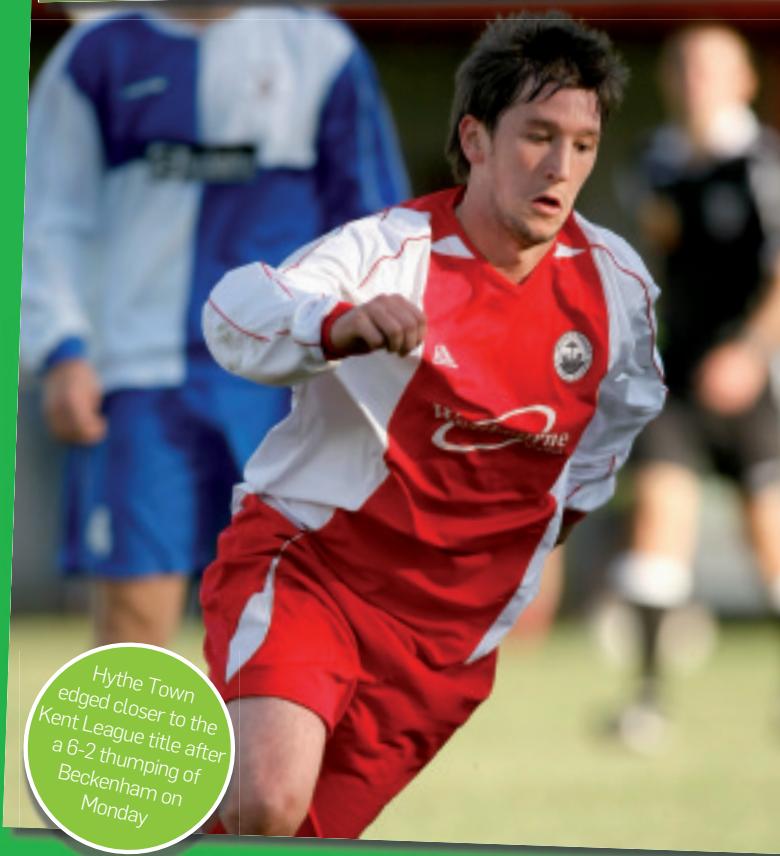
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